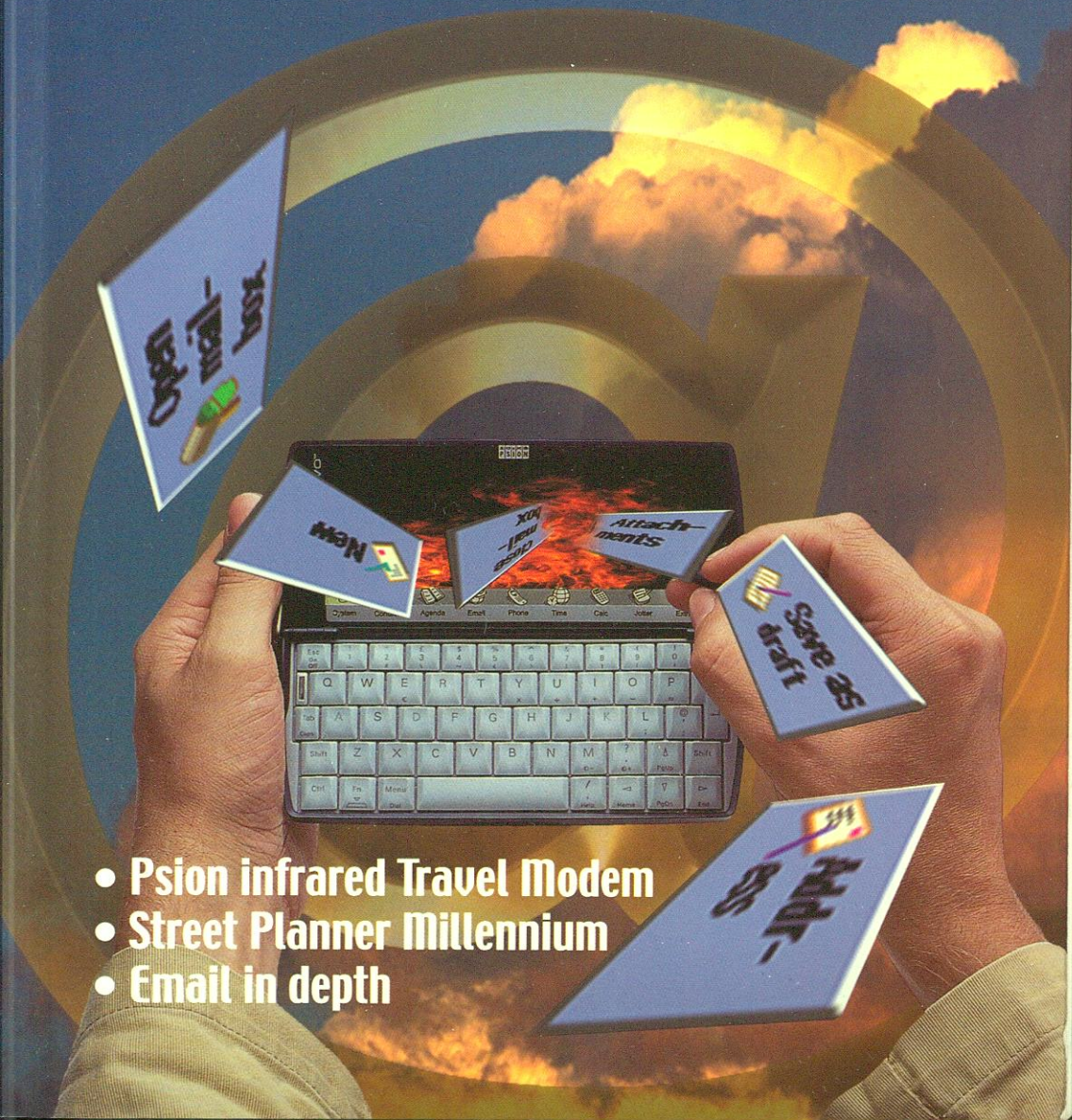


Palmtop

The journal for Psion computers and compatibles

Issue 27

- Psion infrared Travel Modem
- Street Planner Millennium
- Email in depth





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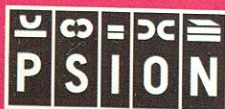
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Palmtop

The journal for Psion computers and compatibles

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Submissions

Any contributions of material published within the pages of *Palmtop* (excluding Q&A) will earn the author a minimum of one free issue added to their subscription. If you wish to write feature articles for the magazine then please contact the Publishing Editor to discuss your ideas.

Back issues

Back issues are available at £4 each in the UK, £4.50 in Europe and £5.50 elsewhere (while stocks last). All prices include postage. Just send payment in the usual way, stating which issues you require.

Subscriptions

Palmtop is available by subscription only from the address given above, price £24 within the UK, £27 in Europe and £33 worldwide. Price covers 6 issues and all postage (and airmail costs for European/worldwide subscriptions). VAT is not payable on *Palmtop*.

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Editorial

With the recent introduction of the Series 7 and Revo, the 5mx is beginning to look in need of an update. Notwithstanding the powerful built-in software and excellent keyboard, the brick-like square likes of the 5mx casing can most generously be described as 'functional'. The Series 5 screen, long criticised for its poor contrast and high reflectivity, looks decidedly prehistoric when put alongside the Revo's bright, sharp little display, and doubly so when compared with the Series 7/netBook's colour LCD.

As the addition of a backlight to the Revo would undoubtedly increase its sales, a colour screen (or at least the option of one) on the Series 5 would surely give it a similar boost. With Windows CE hardware increasingly employing colour, Psion need to realise that, by and large, customers really *want* colour screens. The fact that its benefits are largely (but not wholly) cosmetic isn't the issue. Once the average consumer comes to expect a feature in a product, the best advice to manufacturers is to go with the flow—Psion included.

With current battery technology the extra power consumption of colour screens is no longer such a big issue—just plug the machine into a mains adaptor or docking station for an hour or so every day, or if you travel away from mains power for long periods simply buy a second battery pack. As this has been standard procedure for mobile phones for some years now, it's hardly an alien concept. Unless you're trekking in the Himalayas, admittedly not unknown for Psion users, this is a convenient and economical way to power your palmtop.

Palmtop is...

Steve Clack - Publishing Editor
Rosemary Rolfe - Distribution Manager
Christian Hayle - Artwork / Subscriptions
Steve Litchfield - Editor
Pete Sipple - Technical Contributor
Leigh Edwards - Technical Consultant
John Woodthorpe - Senior Contributor
Nigel Wright - Senior Contributor

Thanks... to all the other contributors whose names appear within the magazine. Thanks also to all those who have kindly supplied their products for evaluation.

Series 5 cartoons - Carl Reader

Printed by



Given the example set by the Revo and Series 7, I fully expect the next incarnation of the Series 5 to include a built-in rechargeable battery pack. A colour screen should also be mandatory at this point, but with Psion one really never knows...

Steve Clack - February 2000

Newsreel

What's new in the Psion and EPOC world...

Infomedia subsidiary

Psion PLC has announced the formation of a new, wholly owned subsidiary, Psion Infomedia, which will focus on the development of digital audio-visual and communications technologies. Psion has hinted for some time that it wished to pursue opportunities in the audio visual market and Infomedia will fulfil this goal, focusing on consumer entertainment appliances for the home and mobile environments. The products will use a wide range of technologies, including EPOC and Bluetooth. Psion has said that Infomedia will officially launch its first product at CeBit in February.

www.psimon.com

Psion and Vodafone partners

Psion PLC and Vodafone Airtouch Global Commercial Services have signed a strategic agreement to develop seamless, end-to-end

mobile Internet solutions for a wide range of mobile devices. The first solutions from this alliance are expected to be introduced in the second half of this year. Services will include mobile on-line Personal Information Management solutions which allow users to access, share and synchronise personal and corporate agenda, contacts and files from any device.

www.psimon.com

Free knowledgebases for all

Following the recent technical support knowledgebases posted on the main Psion web site (which go some, but not all, of the way to sweetening the £1-a-minute telephone support pill), Symbian have announced that their developer knowledgebases, previously available only to Professional members, are now freely available to all.



OPL Knowledgebase

View by Category
View by date modified
View by date created
Full text search
Keyword search

- ▶ Database Files
- ▶ Dialogs
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Files
- ▶ Graphics
- ▶ I/O
- ▼ Known Problems With OPL
 - [dCHOICE only accepts initial values in the range 1 to 255](#)
 - [An easy way to stop all OPL apps working](#)
 - [CONST.OPH has a typo on ER2/ER3](#)
 - [CONST.OPH on ER1 is missing some definitions](#)
 - [Translated OPL programs need a file extension to run](#)
 - [dFILE UID restriction doesn't work until the user changes folders](#)

PSION

support

Knowledge Base



The following 25 documents match your search criteria :

- [1. Can I choose which emails to read on my Psion?](#)
- [2. Can I leave some emails on my remote mailbox for reading later?](#)
- [3. Can I turn off mime encoding \(for outward emails\)?](#)
- [4. Can I use Hotmail with my Psion?](#)
- [5. How do I set up my Internet connection for collecting email and browsing the Web?](#)
- [6. How do I use my PC email and Internet settings on my Psion?](#)
- [7. Is there a limit to the number of email address you can have in the To: box?](#)
- [8. Setting up Web, Email Fax and SMS support document.](#)
- [9. Setting up your Psion using your PC Internet and email settings support document.](#)
- [10. Using Email Synchronization with the Psion Series 5mx, 7 and Revo support document.](#)
- [11. What is a PIM?](#)
- [12. What is an ISP?](#)

The EPOC World knowledgebases include answers to frequently asked questions, defect reports and workarounds, useful code snippets illustrating EPOC idioms and other development information which is not available in the SDKs.

In addition, the OPL knowledgebase has been totally upgraded and reworked.

www.epocworld.com

New top managers at Psion

Psion have announced the appointment of Mrs Margaret Rice-Jones as Managing Director of Psion Computers PLC and Dr Nigel Derrett as the Group's first Director of Strategy. Mrs Rice-Jones takes over the role of Managing Director of Psion Computers from David Levin, who previously undertook this position

alongside his continuing role as Chief Executive of Psion PLC.

www.psim.com

Synchronisation patches

Following much criticism of bugs in PsiWin's synchronisation capabilities, Psion have released a free patch on their web site for those using Email Synchronisation 1.0 and PsiWin 2.3/2.31, resolving the following issues:

- ▶ There was no warning if you attempted to synchronise when the email synchronisation software was not installed on your Psion.
- ▶ An email copied from the email Inbox to the Draft folder did not appear in the PC's Draft folder after synchronising.
- ▶ Synchronisation log reports are now more comprehensive.

Free Software for Psion Users			
Product	Description	Country/ Language*	
		Download	
InSync Pro upgrade for PsiWin 2.2	This upgrade provides InSync Pro with additional support for Notes 95. It is for users of InSync Pro and PsiWin 2.2 only. No additional functionality other than Notes 95 support is provided.	uk:English	
InSync Pro (e) upgrade for PsiWin 2.3	This upgrade provides InSync Pro with additional support for Notes 95 and Email and Contact Manager synchronization, when used in conjunction with PsiWin 2.3 and a Psion Series 5mx, Rev0 or Series 7.	uk:English	

- ▶ Email synchronisation could not run multiple synchronisation tasks.
- ▶ Emails with no body text would not synchronise.
- ▶ Emails were sometimes duplicated in the Inbox.
- ▶ Disconnecting the machine during synchronisation moved all emails in the Inbox to the trash folder.
- ▶ PsiWin could not be uninstalled after email synchronisation had been installed and uninstalled.
- ▶ Emails with HTML content were not synchronised from Outlook.
- ▶ Emails created on the Psion and then converted to PCmails did not synchronise.
- ▶ Emails created on the Psion and then moved to another folder were not synchronised to the PC.
- ▶ The Psion occasionally crashed after running an email synchronisation task.

Psion has also released a synchronisation upgrade for In Sync Pro users, increasing support for Lotus Notes Release 5. Two versions are available: one for PsiWin 2.2 and the other for PsiWin 2.3.

www.psimon.com/downloads/index.html

UK telephone changes

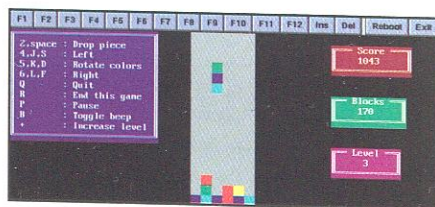
Purple Software have released FixIt, a search-and-replace utility designed to convert telephone area codes. Its primary function is to convert the old UK telephone codes to incorporate the new 'Big Number' changes being introduced in April 2000. Available only as a free download from their web site, FixIt is compatible with all EPOC computers and supports both Data and Contacts databases. See page 38 for a full review.

www.purplesoft.com

DOS emulator now in colour

XTM (reviewed in issue 22) offers software emulation of a classic PC/XT computer, within which you can run any software which would run on a low-end PC clone from the 1980s. A new release updates XTM for Series 7/netBook users, with full colour support.

www.nb-info.co.uk



New programming language

Developer Dan Ramage has released an alpha version of a new EPOC programming language. OOPL is a major extension of OPL, giving shareware authors the same kind of flexibility previously available only to C++ and Java programmers.

OOPL (rhymes with "scruple") is an object-oriented extension, providing features such as structures, classes, dynamic class trees,

Example OOP Code:

```
REM The following structure just holds some of the types
REM of data that structures can hold.
STRUCT OPHELIA
Integer% // Comments can go anywhere
LongInt% /* And be of various styles */
String$(25)
Float
ENDS

/* Another structure example, but this type with a nested
pointer */
STRUCT HAMLET
<OPHELIA>Data% // A nested pointer!
Another_Integer%
ENDS

PROC test:
LOCAL <HAMLET>*a% // Declare a pointer

a% = NEW HAMLET // Allocate a new data structure
// The same as:
// a% = ALLOC(SIZEOF(HAMLET))
```

pointers, enhanced arithmetic, multi-dimensional arrays and much more.

www.geocities.com/drram/

Go32.com and BT's Genie

Go32.com, an e-commerce portal for EPOC software, have partnered with Genie Internet, a division of BTCellnet, to deliver a free online SMS service to Go32 members. Users will be able to send text messages from the Go32.com web site direct to mobile cellular phones, initially in the UK only but soon across Europe as well.

www.go32.com

New dictionaries

Go32.com have also released seven new translation dictionaries by AlphaSoft, a German-based developer for EPOC, on their web site. Each dictionary contains over 100,000 keywords and expressions, all searchable by keyword. The seven titles are: English/Spanish, English/German, English/French, English/Italian, English/Portuguese, English/Dutch and English/Swedish. See page 32 for a full review.

www.go32.com

Worldwide forecast

Handheld companions continue to be a driving force in the worldwide Smart Handheld Device (SHD) market. According to new research from IDC, personal companions remain the 'golden child' of this market, making up 65% of the entire handheld companion segment. In the first half of 1999, 3Com's Palm devices dominated the handheld companion market with shipments of nearly 1.2 million units. The outlook for Windows CE products is far less optimistic, with several of the players abandoning the personal companion market in 1999. In 2000, IDC expects an influx of new products, players and designs in the handheld market, causing it to evolve further.

www.idc.com

Psion does WAP

Psion has joined the WAP Forum, an open global forum founded by Ericsson, Motorola, Nokia and Phone.Com. The WAP Forum now has over 200 members, including handset manufacturers, carriers, leading infrastructure providers, software developers and solutions providers to the wireless industry. Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) is a system for mobile computing that enables mobile users to access and interact with information and services on the Internet using wireless devices almost instantly. WAP works across all international wireless networks, including Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM), Cellular Digital Packet Data, Time Division Multiple Access and Code Division Multiple Access. Unlike most applications, the programs that use WAP will be scalable across a variety of device types and sizes.

Psion promised "We will be bringing out new products in the future based on WAP



in tandem with new products focused on standard web browser technology."

www.pSION.com

www.wapforum.com

Next generation memory cards

Matsushita Electric Industrial (best known as Panasonic), SanDisk and Toshiba have announced a new industry-wide association to set standards for the SD (Secure Digital) Memory Card and promote its wide acceptance in digital applications.

The new organisation, named the Secure Digital Association (SDA), will be headquartered in California and its executive membership will include some 30 world-leading high-tech companies and also major content companies. Initial SDA membership is expected to include ARM, Casio, Compaq, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Matsushita, Microsoft,

Motorola, SanDisk, Sharp, Symbian, TDK and Toshiba, amongst others.

The SD Memory Card will have a physical profile of 24mm x 32mm x 2.1mm, the same size as a postage stamp.

www.sandisk.com

Alliance for Wireless Information Devices

Psion and Motorola have signed an agreement to co-develop a range of mobile Internet access devices based on the next generation of Symbian technology. These Wireless Information Devices will be for use on cellular networks in European, North American, Asian and other markets worldwide. A worldwide launch for this product is expected during the first half of 2001. The product will have integrated voice and data capabilities.

www.pSION.com

INDUSTRY NEWS

In this regular feature we devote a single page to what's happening in the non-EPOC sector of mobile computing...

Compaq has unveiled a new colour Handheld PC. Supported by Windows CE Professional Edition, the Aero 8000 will cost in the region of \$1000. Although the device is fairly large, it has high specification and includes a built-in 56k modem. The Aero 8000 is Compaq's first Handheld PC Pro and is the first mobile device to offer built-in Smart Card technology.

Compaq has also announced that it is adding new connectivity and display features to the Aero 2100 Palm-size PC. The new Windows CE device boasts 'revolutionary' reflective display technology, which has two benefits: the display can be viewed in any light conditions—even under direct sunlight—and battery life is greatly enhanced.

Hewlett-Packard has introduced an enhanced version of its colour Jornada Palm-size PC. The new Jornada 430se is faster (with a 133MHz CPU), has more memory (16MB as standard) and is bundled with new software. The device is only the third Palm-size PC to include stereo output capability, boasting a stereo headphone jack for listening to MP3 music files. The 430se was first introduced in the new James Bond film, 'The World is not Enough', where it was used to defuse a nuclear bomb!

Hewlett Packard has also released the long awaited user-installable upgrade chips to users of the HP620LX and 660LX Handheld PCs. As well as adding several enhancements to the devices, the new chip includes an updated version of the Windows CE operating system.

Philips, one of the original manufacturers of Windows CE Handheld PCs, has announced that they are soon to discontinue production of the Nino line of Palm-size PCs. Although they will continue to provide support for existing Nino users, Philips intend to sell off the remaining stock of Nino 200 and 500 devices. It appears that the company are withdrawing totally from the Handheld PC market—the Velo was also discontinued about 12 months ago.

Vtech has launched an entry level PDA in the form of the Helio, a small device similar in size and function to 3Com's original PalmPilot. It comes complete with character recognition software and a basic personal information manager. Aimed at the student market, the Helio is priced at \$199.

Andy Nott

Shareware Shorts

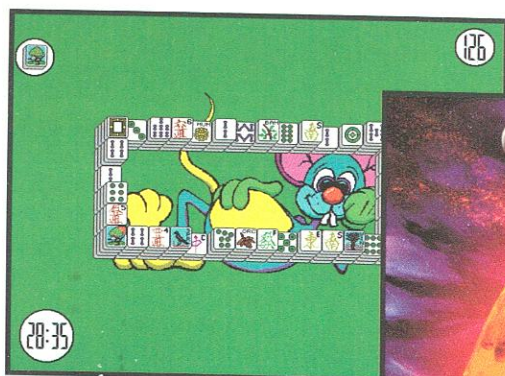
Steve Litchfield, maintainer of the 3-Lib shareware library, takes a look at the latest additions to the world of Psion shareware...

Judging from the number of people popping up on the Internet professing to be 'Revo believers', plus the number of programmers releasing Revo-compatible versions of their software, Psion's smallest machine seems to be something of a success.

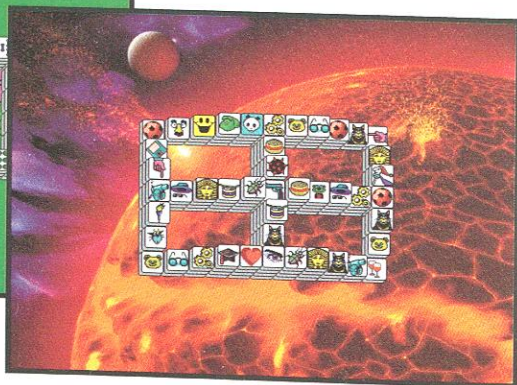
Software compatible with the Series 7 (and netBook) has been somewhat slower arriving, partly because of the smaller quantities of units sold and partly because converting a program

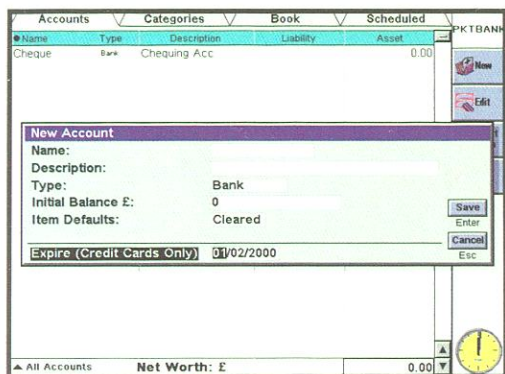
(especially a game) into colour can be a time consuming exercise. Even so, **Ben Vaughan** has been quick off the mark with his *Psi-Jong* tile strategy game, in which the aim is to remove as many matching pairs of tiles from the board as possible. Also speedy with colour is **Adam Dawes** and **Neuon**, with Series 7 versions of both *Chain Reaction* and *Tile Fall*.

More serious program updates fully supporting the Series 7/netBook's larger screen include **Steve Godfrey's** *PhoneMan Pro* (see page 25),



Psi-Jong setting high standards on the Series 7/netBook





PocketBank running on the Series 7/netBook

much of the **RMR Software** shareware collection and **Richard Balch's Quiklist**. The latter is a package for managing all those lists that fill your life. It will help you organise something as simple as a shopping list but also has the power to handle to do lists with dates and priorities. It uses a novel, solely pen-based interface to quickly alter the priority of items and to cross them out when they're done.

on diet and exercise, it schedules reminders to visit your doctor and reports on exactly what's happening inside both your body and the baby's. Also from **ITIL** is *Almanac*, which lets you view various world events for the past 100 years. You can select the type of event and the particular year, with a list of major events appearing in a list box.

Also new for EPOC

Yet another bank account manager has turned up, this time by **Richard Ryerson**, using a similar interface to Palmtop Software's *Money*. For those on a tight budget, being able to get much of the latter's functionality for free is a boon, and PocketBank is also compatible with both Revo and Series 7.

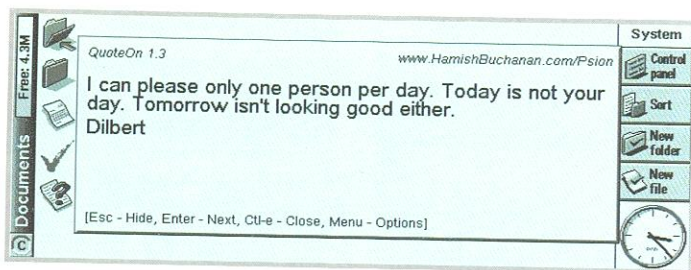
Health-specialist **ITIL's Pregnancy tracker** is aimed at being an all-in-one aid for the mother-to-be. It covers simple due date calculations, advice

Name Age 30 yrs Height 5 2 cm Weight 60 kg Save Set Ultrasound Clear	Activity Level Sedentary LMP 29/01/2000 EDD 04/11/2000 Show tips at startup ☒ Set Medical Test Reminder	Pregtracker Profile Calorie Doctor Notes Help Close
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Pregnancy tracker—all in one utilities for the mother to be

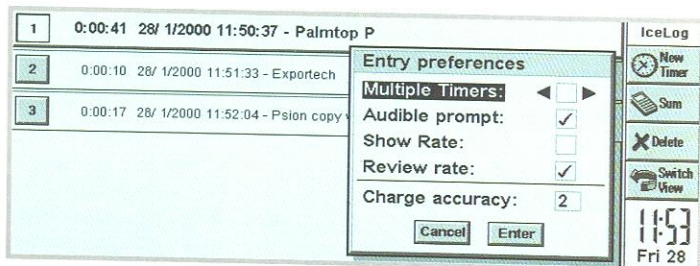
A hundred years of history, with ITIL's Almanac

Almanac Year 1999-1989 Major General events of 1999-1989 1989 - After 28 years, Berlin Wall is open to West. 1989 - Czech Parliament ends Communists dominant role 1989 - Romanian uprising overthrows President Ceausescu 1989 - U.S. troops invade Panama, seeking capture of Ge 1989 - Emperor Hirohito of Japan dead at 87. 1989 - George Herbert Walker Bush inaugurated as 41st Help About Exit 	Event Type General Help About Exit
---	--



A chuckle in the mornings with QuoteOn

Accurate time accounting with IceLog



QuoteOn, from **Hamish Buchanan**, is a simple utility that displays quotes or famous sayings when your palmtop is switched on. The quotes are stored in a standard EPOC data file so that you can easily add or edit records. *QuoteOn* can be configured to display records either once per day or every time the Psion is switched on.

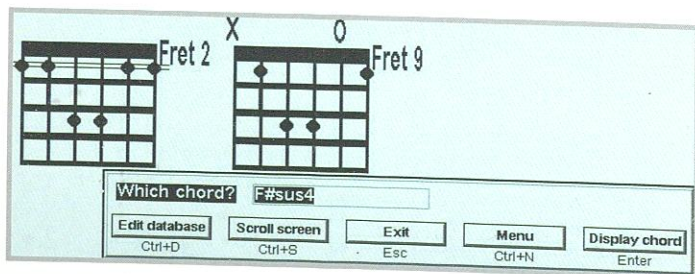
IceLog, from **Iceforce Systems**, is another implementation of an old idea, allowing you to record time spent on different tasks using up to six timers. Each can be configured to run concurrently or singly, and can have tasks attached to them. A task can carry an hourly

rate which is then used to calculate the charge for a timer (i.e. the rate multiplied by accumulated time).

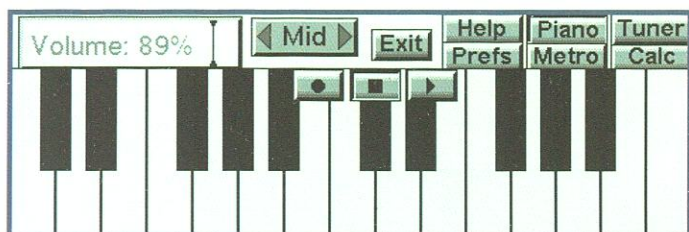
The food of love

A functional aid for guitarists everywhere is **Neil Sands' Guitar**, which uses a reasonably comprehensive chord database which graphically presents two inversions for each one. Registered users get to edit or add to the database.

Notable recent updates for the Revo include my own *Piano*, with a playable 'stylophone'

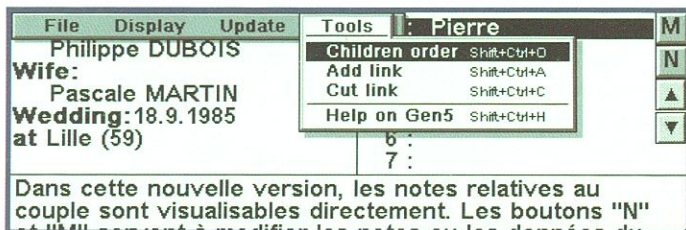


Guitar reveals another complicated chord



Most of the original Piano's features in compact Revo form

Family history revealed with Gen5-R on the Revo



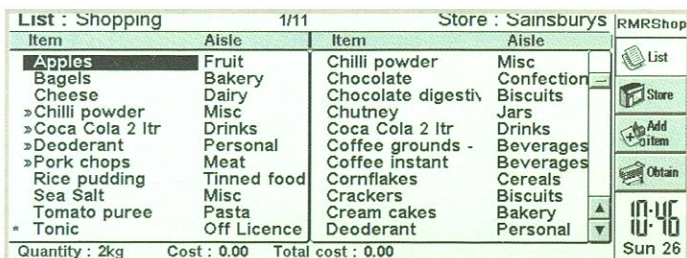
keyboard and metronome and tuning functions, and **Michel Catton's** Gen5-R, the popular genealogical program that imports and exports standard GEDCOM files.

The idea behind **RMR's** new *RMRShop* is that you pre-define the location (aisle number) of the items you normally buy in each of your local stores. Then, when it's time to go shopping, you build your shopping list simply by tapping on the items. Once complete, just sort the list by aisle number so that as you walk around the shop the items are presented in a logical order. They can then be crossed off as they are put into the shopping trolley. Each item can be allocated an estimated cost

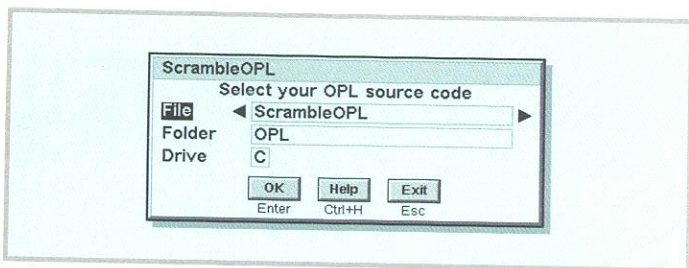
so that you can see how much your shopping bill is going to be.

Hackers keep out

A welcome aid for OPL programmers in the struggle against software piracy is **Richard Smedley's** *ScrambleOPL*. Working on all EPOC computers, it makes things difficult for hackers by modifying your source code, replacing the name of every procedure and variable with a randomly-generated nonsense name. So even if somebody *does* succeed in reverse-translating your program, most of the it will look like gibberish—and thus much harder to understand and to hack.

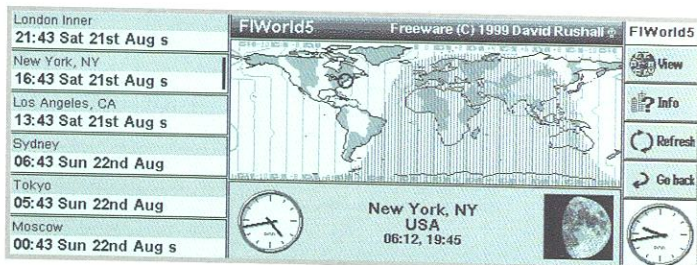


Out shopping and in control, with RMRShop



Choosing a file
to obfuscate in
ScrambleOPL

*FIworld-
packed full of
timely world
information*



Following on from the popularity of their EPOC application (mentioned in issue 26), the folks behind *TomeRaider* have now created a Windows front-end for the same *TomeRaider* data files. It's therefore possible to have the same reference works and databases easily accessible on both palmtop and desktop.

Available for both EPOC and the Series 3 is **David Rushall's** *FIWorld*, an alternative to the built-in world time application. It includes the current time and date in up to six cities, a world time-zone map with day/night shading, a graphical moon phase display, plus of course full city information, including sunrise/sunset and dialling codes.

Series 3 only

A recent update of his very old Series 3 word game, **David Godfrey's** *Palabra 3mx* consists of nine small word games and an occasional bonus game, all using four letter words. You are taken through the games in random order to score points which can be

gambled for high stakes in the casino. There is a bank from which you can borrow points, interest is charged every five minutes of play and borrowing wisely can give you additional points to use in the casino for high rewards.

QTCS is a selection of comprehensive mathematical programs by **Sven Weber**. Included are routines for equation solving, complex number arithmetic, hyperbolic functions, complex graphing, zeta functions and a lot besides that you'll probably only understand if you've a degree in the subject!

Another reworking of a very old program idea, **Doug Cunningham's** *VideoLib* keeps track of recordings in your videotape library. Improving on previous, similar applications, *VideoLib* supports up to 9999 video tapes per library file, up to 16 programs per video tape and program slots are automatically opened and closed as programs are added, moved and deleted. There are also comprehensive search facilities to help locate selected programs or free space available for recording.

ABP

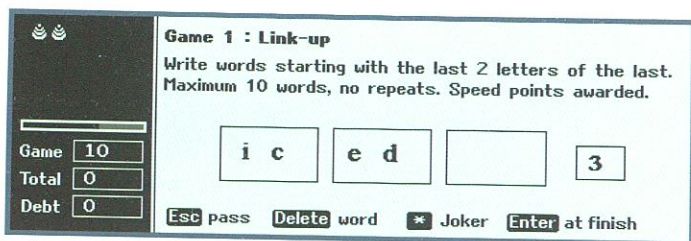
FEATURED UPDATE!

Created initially by Malcolm Bryant as a personal banking program to suit his own needs, ABP has grown over the past year to become a serious contender for the title of most comprehensive money manager for EPOC. It's certainly the cheapest, being free. Using double entry bookkeeping, but with many of the ancillary features of other shareware competitors, ABP takes a further lead because of the author's commitment to regular updates.

Included in recent versions have been:

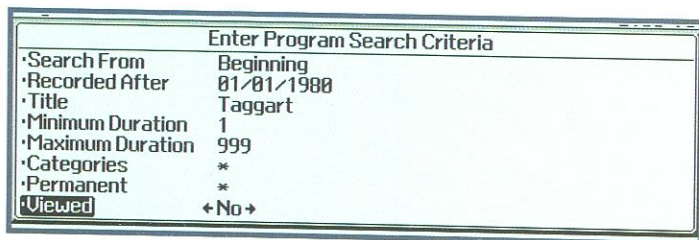
- ▶ Import and export of Quicken QIF files in Year 2000-compliant format, as required by Quicken and Microsoft Money.
- ▶ Option to turn off the toolbar.
- ▶ Option to interpret bank statements in OFX format from Barclays Bank.
- ▶ Option to interpret bank statements in QIF format from Lloyds TSB, including special coding to strip out the reference from Payee field and put it correctly into ABP's reference field.
- ▶ Once you have imported your bank statement, ABP will check the bank's balance against ABP's reconciled balance. If necessary, you can update ABP's opening balance to bring it into agreement with your bank's.
- ▶ Handling of multiple bank statements in a single QIF, OFC or OFX file—the program will prompt to find out which ABP account to apply to each new bank statement.
- ▶ Internet import: ABP can now auto-assign transactions to categories when importing a QIF file from your bank.
- ▶ When editing transactions you can now change categories from normal to split (but not vice versa).
- ▶ Full Revo and Series 7/netBook compatibility.
- ▶ Addition of date selection for graphs: when viewing a graph, [Tab] allows you to select a start date and end date to be displayed—the graph is then redrawn with the dates you supply.
- ▶ Enabling of fast entering of a single (i.e. non-repeating) standing order.





One of Palabra's nine included race-against-time games

Starting to search in VideoLib



Stop Press!

Finally appearing for both the Series 3 and EPOC is a generic PostScript printer driver, by Andrew Johnson. This should print to almost any PostScript device, generating Level 1 PostScript output and outputting (monochrome) graphics at 300dpi and supporting both portrait and landscape orientations.

Company Accounting, a new EPOC application from **Palmscape**, can generate invoices,

rough cash-books (showing all registered transactions and outstanding VAT payments) and simple annual accounts, based on income, expenses, assets and liabilities. All are created in HTML, including your company's logo, and can be viewed in Web or copied over to a desktop PC for printing. *Company Accounting* is available in several European languages.

Shareware availability

Please note that, by definition, many of the latest items featured in Shareware Shorts will not appear on existing Palmtop CDs, but on subsequent pressings of the disk. If you wish to receive every edition of the Palmtop CD then see page 115 for details.

For those with Internet access, an easy way to find software is to go to our 'Programmer directory' at www.palmtop.co.uk/authors.htm and look up the name of the author as highlighted in **bold** in this article. This will take you to the author's web site, from where you can find out more about the product and download it directly.

Programs not immediately traceable via their author's web page can all be found at 3lib.ukonline.co.uk/psifind.htm

What is shareware?

Written by professional programmers and enthusiasts to meet specific (and sometimes unusual) needs, shareware is often supplied for use on a thirty day trial basis. If you like the software you are then asked to send a payment to the author. Some programs are freeware and don't require any payment at all. Each program comes complete with information about how to install and use it, and how to pay for it.

Where can I find it?

One way to get any of these programs is from the Internet. If you've got access to the web there are several on-line indices which link directly to the relevant author download page concerned.

Things are actually even easier if you haven't got Internet access. As long as the program concerned has been out for a month or so, you should find a copy on the latest edition of the Palmtop CD-ROM, indexed into the appropriate category.

How do I use it?

Once you've found the file you want, there are three steps you may need to take:

1. Decompress the files if necessary. If you're new to computers you may not be familiar with compression. Psion applications normally have more than one component (e.g. the program itself, help files and pictures). These are normally compressed into one file, which makes them easier to distribute. Shareware on the Internet is most commonly compressed in 'Zip' format, and you can recognise these by the '.ZIP' at the end of the filename. Before you can install and run the program you need to extract these files with an 'unzip' program, which is freely available from your shareware supplier. If you use DOS, look for PKUNZIP, Windows users can use Winzip, and Mac users should try Ziplt or the commercial Stuffit Deluxe. You can also unzip files on your Psion without using another computer, using RMRZip, from www.rmrsoft.com.
2. Copy the files. You'll probably now need to transfer the unzipped files onto your Psion. To do this you'll need some external hardware, such as the PsiWin or EPOC Connect link cable or a Cyclone drive. Normally one of the unzipped software files is a text file (e.g. README.TXT), which can be read by any word processor. It explains how the program should be installed and where the files need to be copied to on your Psion. Series 5 and other EPOC owners should also look out for any special SIS files, which can be double-clicked on for really easy installation.

See 'The Installation Game' in issues 14/15 and 'Installing software - the easy way' in issue 21 for a more comprehensive discussion of the above procedures.

3. Install the application. From your Series 3 or Siena System screen, select [Psion] + [I]. If the program was copied correctly the filename should appear in the list. Select it, press [Enter], and the icon should be installed, ready to run. EPOC users don't need to do this as the newly installed program will automatically appear on the Extras bar.



MailBox

Contribute and WIN PRIZES!

EVERY letter published wins the author a free Palm-Tee case, worth at least £25!

Psion's 'sex' line

Following your editorial in issue 26 regarding Psion's £1 per minute help-line, I recently had the misfortune to require some technical assistance myself. I phoned Psion's Gold Support Service, only to be told that my membership had lapsed and would now cost £34 to renew, an increase of nearly £10. I thus declined the offer and opted for their new £1-a-minute 'sex line'.

My enquiry was to ascertain whether my Nokia 702 phone would work with the Series 5—a simple yes/no question, so I thought. Not so. First they had to ask my name ("how do you spell that..?"), phone number ("what was that, 4-9-0...?")—then "Yes sir, what is your problem?", by which time I had already spent £1 or so. Why did they need this information, other than to waste time and keep the 2p-per-second clock ticking?

These service charges are obscene, and if this is Psion's idea of 'service' then they are mistaken. I, for one, will not support Psion any more.

Roger Ninnim, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

Outrage...

I am writing to express my sense of outrage at the information contained in your editorial in issue 26. How can Psion deliver this slap in the face to their loyal customers and users—£1 per minute for technical help? No

way. In any case, with the information available on the Internet plus your own excellent hints, tips and tutorials, who needs Psion's help, which, from my past experience, is of rather dubious quality anyway?

I already own three Psion computers, and was well on the way to convincing myself that I needed a Series 7 too. Not any longer. If ever I buy a Psion product again, it will be a used one, so as to keep my money away from these sharks. I still cannot help extolling the virtues of these brilliant little computers to other people, but now I add the caveat: "Watch out, the company is managed by idiots".

Jonathan Williams, Tresques, FRANCE

Grow your own!

I am stunned that Psion have the nerve to charge so much for technical help, especially when it is so often of such doubtful quality. Anyone reading the Q&A pages in issue 26 will have seen my query "My vanishing world". This problem was first posed to Psion, and as can be seen, the advice they gave just wasn't up to scratch. Not good enough, Psion!

So often Palmtop magazine have been able to answer a question regarding my Psion—why doesn't Palmtop magazine set up its own technical advice facility? Fair enough, payment would be required, but as long as the price was below Psion's and the advice remained the high calibre it is now, I for one would

strongly consider subscribing to a Palmtop Technical Advice Service! How about it?

Jonathan Thomas, Maidstone, Kent

We appreciate that there's a need for a realistically-priced alternative to Psion's own 'service', but unfortunately we're already kept inordinately busy with magazine deadlines. If we took time to answer technical questions then we'd *never* get the magazines out! - Ed.

It's a PC world

I love my 5mx. Like most Psion owners, it goes wherever I go. My job takes me away from the office frequently and I find my 5mx brilliant for taking reports on the road. And having my emails forwarded to me from the office is a great help.

However, last week I wrote a report on my 5mx and proceeded to send it to my boss as an email attachment. Although obvious to me now, I hadn't contemplated the fact that he wouldn't be able to open the document on his PC as it was a Psion Word file, which can't be read directly by desktop word processors. I had to re-send the report by copying and pasting the text into the body of the e-mail, losing most of its formatting in the process.

Isn't it time Psion applications were able to export in a PC-readable format, or do Psion believe that their users only email and exchange data with other Psion users?

Giles Hussey, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Psion in the USA

During a recent visit to London, my Psion Series 5 had an unfortunate encounter with a glass of water. I should have simply bought a new 5mx in London, but I decided to

wait until I got home. That proved to be a mistake.

On my first day back, I stopped at every computer and electronics store on my way to work. None carried the Psion, and only a few had even heard of the machine. Virtually all carried 3Com's Palm. I asked some of those who knew what Psion meant why they didn't carry the machines. Price seemed to be the main issue, with Palm machines costing about half as much as Psions. Then, I started working through a web version of the phone book. I made it all the way to the 'T's before I found a dealer who would order a Psion with a one-day turn-around. Palmtop reviewers in the USA almost uniformly ignore Psion. Windows CE devices are almost as scarce—it seems that 3Com dominates the American market.

In order to be a 'global' company, Psion simply *must* work harder to increase their visibility over here. Palms are not sufficiently independent from a desktop computer for my own use. However, the Series 5mx is indeed an expensive palmtop. By the time I had bought the machine and all the accessories I need, I had spent almost a thousand dollars. You get what you pay for, but that is asking a lot for a first-time user who is not yet aware of how a palmtop computer can revolutionise one's working life. Hopefully, the new Revo will help with this price barrier.

Donald Robertson, San Francisco, California, USA

Don't forget that you can submit your letters by normal mail to the address given on page 1, or alternatively by email, to editor@palmtop.co.uk. Please be sure to put "MailBox" in the 'subject' line of your email.



A Closer Look

...at some of the newest
and most interesting
products for your Psion

Star Ratings:

★★★★★	Excellent
★★★★☆	Good
★★★☆☆	Average
★★★☆☆	Fair
★★☆☆☆	Poor
★☆☆☆☆	Dismal

Interpreting reviews

Quality: the *Quality* star rating reflects how well the product works, whether it includes all the features you'd expect, whether the interface is consistent and easy to use, and in data-based software products it also reflects the quality of the information contained in the program.

Value: the *Value* star rating reflects the value for money of the product, taken within the context of what the program (or other product) does. Therefore a simple utility program will be rated differently to a sophisticated application at the same price.

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TrueTerm Dictionaries	32
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Psion 56k Travel Modem

Hardware manufacturers are certainly getting the hang of designing for mobile professionals. When the postman handed over the box containing the new 56k Travel Modem, my initial impression was that the box had to be empty, it was so light. In fact, there was a floppy disk (of which more later), an 80 page (six language) manual, a leaflet on technical support, a voucher to claim a free GSM phone cable and the star of the show, weighing in at only 75g. Add in the diminutive size (10 x 7 x 3cm) and it's a very pocketable accessory.

Although it's not at all obvious exactly who's responsible for the Travel Modem (the manual says 'Psion Dacom', the leaflet says 'Psion Computers' and the modem itself proudly proclaims 'Psion PLC'), it's been designed to be all things to all people.

The infrared link to the palmtop means that there's not only one less cable to worry about but also that a variety of different computers can use it (I successfully logged on with a Palm III organiser). The claimed range is 'at least 30cm', although I had some success at twice this distance.

Apart from the landline cable that plugs into your wall socket when available, there's a keyed socket for a special cable to a GSM mobile phone. For the huge number of owners of older Nokia and Ericsson phones without built-in (or add-on) infrared modems, the arrival of the Travel Modem will herald a new era of connected mobility. Rather than

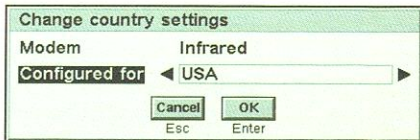
ship a dozen or so specialist cables in the box, the idea is that you send in your combined regis-

tration card/voucher with details of your phone and they then send you the right one by return of post.

GSM cables are available for the Nokia 5110, 5130, 5190, 6110, 6150 and 6150e (Orange dual band) and the Ericsson series 600, 700, T10 and T18 phones. Telecommunications approval has also been obtained for over a dozen countries, with the appropriate phone plug (presumably) supplied in the box. Although the modem will need different initialisation strings for each country (to handle differences in guard and ring tones), Psion supply their EasySwitch utility on the floppy disk, which configures the modem for you.

The final trick in the Travel Modem's armoury is that it runs on either two internal AA batteries or the standard Series 5/Revo mains adaptor. It's difficult to be sure of battery life as we'd only had the modem a few days when we went to press, but I'd estimate it to be at least a couple of hours on alkaline cells.

The top of the dark blue plastic casing features only an 'on/off' button (thoughtfully latched electronically to require a deliberate press rather than an accidental knock in your hand luggage) and two LEDs, marked 'Power' and 'Data'. The former turns red when the batteries get low. The latter indicates when bytes are flowing up or down the line when connected and can be a useful indication of whether the limiting factor in a download is the modem itself, the palmtop or the Internet at large. It's a pity the designers didn't include an extra



EasySwitch sets up the Travel Modem for different countries

LED to indicate whether a call is active or not—when things go wrong halfway through a session (as they often seem to) and nothing appears to be happening, it's annoying not knowing whether the call has been hung up and needs to be re-established or whether the Internet's just being slower than usual.

Configuration is a doddle, with the manual showing the 'Control panel | Modems' dialog settings to use, and takes less than a minute. Connections were tested by myself and a colleague on three different EPOC palmtops, using two separate Travel Modems, connecting to four ISPs over two different telephone lines. The reason for this particularly exhaustive testing is that we experienced several connection problems. When the modem worked well, it worked very well, with good download speeds, but we also had a lot of occasions when the Internet session appeared to hang, with the Travel Modem going into endless 're-training' cycles with the ISP's modem rack.

As always with matters of computer communications, it's difficult to pin the blame on any one device with complete certainty, but these early samples of the Travel Modem certainly seem to have issues which need attention. Many modem problems can be fixed with the application (by the user) of a 'firmware' upgrade and we expect this to be the case with the Travel Modem. I'll report further on this in the next issue.

Quite apart from all the connection possibilities opened up by its physical form, the other big feature is of course the compatibility with all modem standards up to and including V.90, which under ideal circumstances downloads at 56,000 bits per second and uploads at 33,600. Although being able to label the Travel Modem as '56k' is a big selling point, it doesn't really get stretched when used with a humble palmtop. Even the fast Series 5mx and Revo can only handle a certain amount of incoming

data per second, especially in Web, when that data needs a lot of extra processing in the background, such as decoding of HTML constructs, GIF or JPG images (the latter especially—Web is terrible at processing these). Other common limiting factors for web browsing are the speed of the originating web server, the speed of the international 'pipes' and the current load on your ISP's leased bandwidth.

Putting these limitations in context, you won't notice a huge difference when web browsing between your existing 14.4k or 28.8k external modem and the 56k Travel Modem. Email is a different matter though, with downloads from your ISP usually being streamed as fast as you can take them, and with little processing to do at the palmtop end the full download speed of the modem can be realised.

Whether the Travel Modem is an essential purchase for you depends on a lot of factors: the speed of your existing modem; which GSM mobile phone you own, if any; whether you mainly use Web or Email, and if the latter the expected size of incoming messages and attachments; and of course, the depth of your wallet, given the high asking price.

Steve Litchfield

Psion 56k Travel Modem

From: Major Psion dealers

Availability: Now

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £159.99 inc. VAT

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

Kind thanks go to Clove Technology for supplying us with the necessary hardware.

LittleSense Dictionary

This is the minimalist's answer to Palmtop Software's Collins Cobuild Dictionary, which we reviewed in the last issue of Palmtop. Less than one fifth the size, at only 1MB, the literature boasts "LittleSense is a compact dictionary designed to fit comfortably on an ordinary Psion 5 computer. You don't need to delete half your favourite files and applications, and you don't need a 32MB CF card."

The basic interface of the LittleSense dictionary is similar to Cobuild, with two match-as-you-type views: one showing a simple index of all words in alphabetical order and another that gives the full definition of the word you've entered. A little irritatingly, there's no keyboard shortcut or menu command to switch between the two views, requiring you to tap a button on the toolbar. Considering

that the toolbar can optionally be hidden from view entirely, this is a rather glaring omission. The [Tab] key, that would most commonly be used for this purpose, instead pops up a list of the words most recently looked up.

In terms of basic lexicon there's less difference than you might imagine between the two programs. Although LittleSense claims only 52,000 entries compared to 75,000 for Collins Cobuild, I picked 10 relatively uncommon words: triangulate, collegiate, perambulate, polyhedron, raconteur, futon, existentialist, frumpy, pleurisy and cappuccino. Interestingly only eight of them appeared in Collins Cobuild and only seven in LittleSense, but all 10 appeared correctly in at least one of the two.

As you'd expect from its smaller size, word definitions in LittleSense are more terse, and don't give usage examples, pronunciation or cross references, but unless you're in the process

Look up: **little**

LittleSense

Look up

Browse

Hide

Help

Noun:

1. a small amount or duration.

Adjective:

1. limited or below average in number or quantity or magnitude or extent.
2. (quantifier used with mass nouns) small in quantity or degree; not much or almost none or (with "a") at least some.
3. of short duration.
4. very young.
5. of little importance or influence or power; of minor status.
6. (informal terms) small and of little importance.
7. (of a voice) faint.
8. contemptibly narrow in outlook.
9. younger and (at least formerly) smaller than another though relative size is not the issue.
10. lowercase.
11. used of persons or behaviour; characterised by or indicative of lack of generosity.

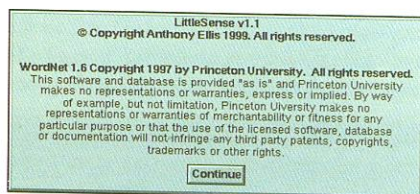
Adverb:

1. not much.

Browse view on the Revo



of learning English as a second language you'll probably glean all the information you need from LittleSense.



LittleSense's data source...

LittleSense has no crossword or anagram features, word games or other niceties, but remember that EPOC's built-in spell checker offers its own crossword and anagram solving (without the word definitions, of course), so for the average user these are largely excess baggage anyway. One useful feature that the authors have usefully provided is a user-configurable hotkey that can be used to invoke the LittleSense dictionary from other applications, such as Word.

So what's to choose between the two competing dictionaries? For those with a good grasp of English vocabulary and usage, Cobuild's additional supplementary information is likely to be of limited value, which makes LittleSense's low price (only £12.99) and storage requirements an attractive proposition. If you feel that you need the additional pronunciation, context examples and cross-referencing and can spare almost six

megabytes of space, then Collins Cobuild is a worthwhile investment.

If your free storage space is running low, LittleSense is the only choice. Revo users may just be able to squeeze LittleSense into their available 8MB, whereas the Cobuild version would be out of the question. Both dictionaries work on all EPOC models, automatically adjusting themselves to different screen sizes.

For my own use, I still crave a more comprehensive reference where I can look up *all* the words I'm looking for, rather than the 70-80 percent managed by both of the current offerings. Until such a beast appears, I'll be sure to keep both Collins Cobuild and LittleSense on my CompactFlash, just to increase the chances of finding what I'm looking for.

Steve Clack

LittleSense Dictionary

From: Usual shareware sources

Contact: www.necromicon.co.uk

Availability: Now (British English only)

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £12.99 inc. VAT

Quality ★★★★★☆

Value ★★★★★☆

PhoneMan Pro

If you're a serious mobile phone user then PhoneMan Pro may be the killer application for you. When out of the office I rely on my Series 5 to keep me in touch with email and phone messages, and PhoneMan Pro makes it all possible. I first reviewed PhoneMan towards the end of 1998 (issue 21, p30) and since then it's moved on apace. Essentially it has four main functions, which we'll take one by one.

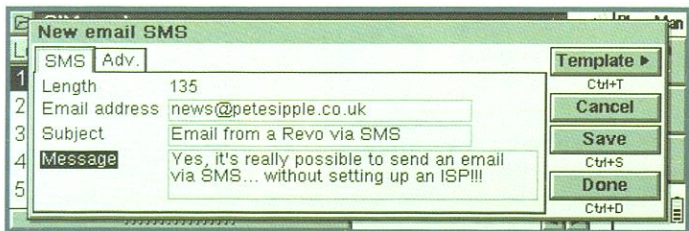
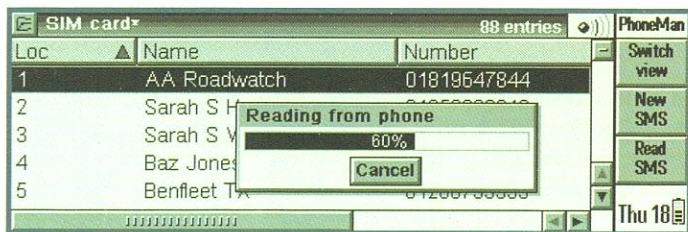
Most mobile phone users store their commonly-dialled numbers in either the phone's internal memory or the SIM card. PhoneMan Pro allows you to download these numbers onto your Psion. There are two reasons why this is a good idea: not only is it a safe way of backing up your telephone numbers, but it makes life a lot easier when it comes to adding or editing them. You can shuffle the order of your numbers, sort alphabetically, use cut and paste, and then upload the changes to your handset. All very convenient.

SMS, standing for Short Message Service, allows basic text messages of under 160 characters to be sent between mobile phones. Restrictions have recently been lifted in the UK, making it easy to send messages from one network to another (so you can send and receive while 'roaming' overseas) and it's now also possible to send an email via SMS.

PhoneMan Pro makes dealing with SMS messages a doddle. Your messages are all read and composed using the familiar Inbox/Outbox/Sent folder arrangement—you can request a receipt confirming that the message has got through, delete messages from your phone to save space, change expiry dates and send the same message to groups or multiple recipients. Over the last six months, I've been making more and more use of SMS for getting figures over to colleagues, chasing people or surreptitiously chatting to friends while no-one's looking. PhoneMan Pro makes it all so easy.

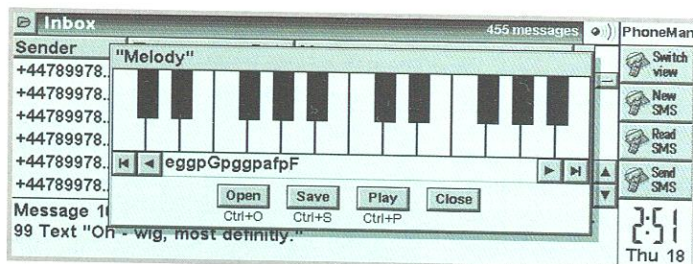
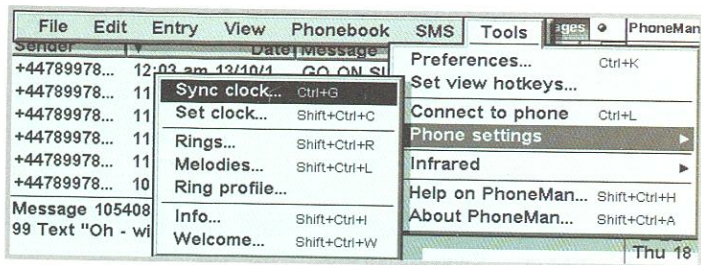
Mobile handsets are getting more and more clever. Too clever. Navigating around a large feature set on a tiny screen is no fun at

Downloading a phonebook to a Revo



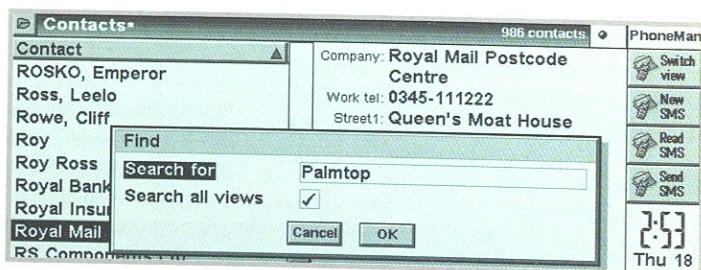
Sending an email via SMS

*Messing with
your phone
settings—all so
much easier
with
PhoneMan Pro*



*Mozart on a
mobile?
Composing a
ringing tune
for your phone*

*PhoneMan
Pro's Contacts
view*

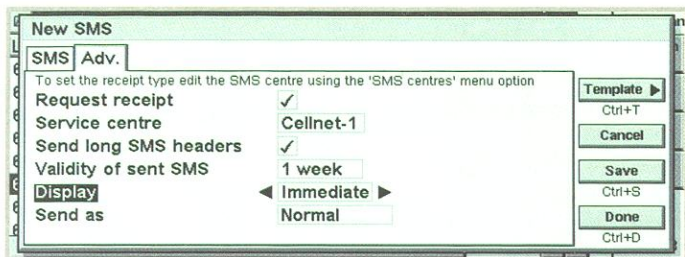


all. In PhoneMan Pro's 'Phone settings', you can control your phone's rings, set the clock, change the welcome message, check the memory, signal strength or battery charge, and even compose your own ringing tune with certain phone types.

The integration with ER5's Contacts application is the biggest change to PhoneMan Pro since our 1998 review, and is also the reason for the suffix 'Pro'. On the 5mx, Series 7/netBook, MC218 and Revo, you can view, edit and print addresses, and even dial your friends and associates directly. In prac-

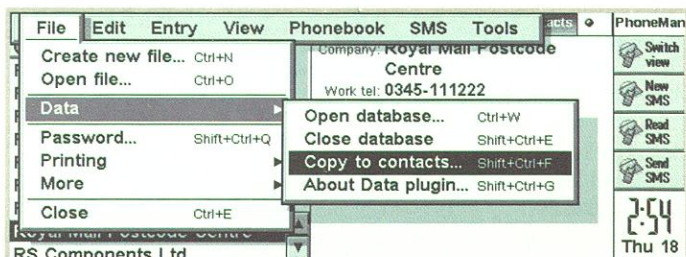
tice, the 'Contacts' part of PhoneMan Pro isn't quite as good as Symbian's built-in version, in either speed or layout, and searching is something which needs refining a little. It does allow you to dial, send an SMS or copy a contact's number onto your phone, and it's a sensible way of keeping everything in one place. You can also merge in names and numbers from a Data file, as well as importing or exporting text files. Very handy if you're upgrading from a Series 3 or a 5.

The Revo's built-in Phone application, and (to some extent) Email on the Revo and



Setting your advanced SMS settings

Converting Data address records into the Contacts application



Series 5mx have a certain amount of support for mobile phone address books and SMS, but they lack much of the power and functions found in PhoneMan Pro, and don't work with such a wide range of phone handsets. With such nice touches as password protection, ring tone (and logo) editing and the ability to print selected contacts, this program still gets an exceptionally high rating.

My only real criticism of PhoneMan Pro is its startup speed, or rather lack of it. With over 900 contacts on my palmtop, PhoneMan Pro takes almost a minute to load up. The work-around is of course easy, as needing only around 380K of memory, I can afford to keep the application open at all times—a small price to pay. Both Contacts and PhoneMan Pro seem to coexist happily, of course using the same data.

PhoneMan Pro works with most of the leading mobile phones, with 20 makes and models

configured and ready to use. Others may need to rely on the 'Basic GSM' setting.

Pete Sipple

PhoneMan Pro

From: Usual shareware sources

Contact: SG Software,
www.sgsoftware.co.uk

Availability: Now (English, Spanish, Italian and Czech)

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £15 + VAT

Quality	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆

Portfolio Manager

The age of the active private investor is here and the essential tools of his or her financial existence are a mobile phone and a portfolio manager. Ledgers and quarterly PEP and Isa statements are not enough for those using (and occasionally swamping) the 'execution only' share dealing services. These are the telephone and Internet services where you can buy and sell shares more cheaply, but with no advice or word of warning.

Sheet on the Series 3 served me well for many years of personal accounts, replaced a year ago by a Psion Series 5 which took over both these and my share management needs. The 5mx is better still, being more Internet friendly and bringing back the 'sort' function so necessary for ranking price changes. After these manual arrangements, the chance to look at Palmtop Software's 'proper' Portfolio Manager for EPOC was welcome indeed.

What might you want in a portfolio manager? Perhaps some or all of the following:

- ▶ Tracking the prices of shares you own or might buy.
- ▶ Totalling the value of your holding, looking at its growth (one hopes), considering it from different perspectives (such as having too many nest eggs in one basket).
- ▶ Updating these figures effortlessly whenever you wish.

- ▶ Appending notes about your holdings (including important dates like AGMs) and warning of excessive price movements.
- ▶ Keeping track of costs, profits and losses, and capital gains liabilities.

Portfolio Manager does most of these things very well. Loading it from CD installs one application on your EPOC palmtop and another on your PC. The Psion application is the central 'brain' for tracking, note-taking and calculation. The companion PC application 'Portfolio Manager Agent' is a proactive Internet price chaser.

Portfolio Manager has several levels of screens and tools, the most important of which is 'Funds', tucked away within 'Setup'. Here you input data on all the shares and funds you hold or are thinking of holding. You assign each of them a type, such as 'Share' or 'Currency', a symbol such as their stock exchange code (PON for Psion, for example), a sector description such as "Information technology" and the market in which the share or fund is traded.

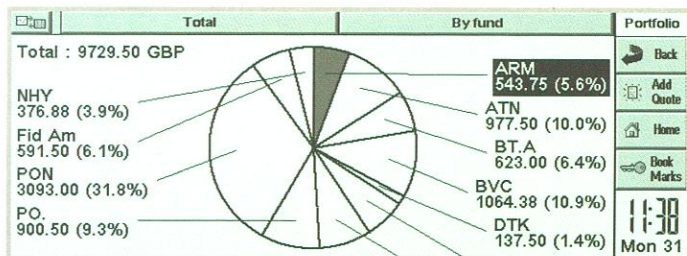
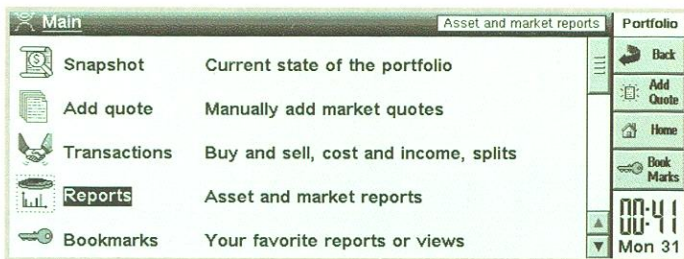
You can add other sectors, markets, currencies and country descriptions. Portfolio Manager will quite impressively convert foreign fund holdings into pounds or any other currency you set as default, including the Euro.

Once you have listed the funds, you have to 'buy' some of each share you own in order to start the tracking process. You can start with an historic date and price but will have to

Main - Bookmarks - Portfolio snapshot								Portfolio	
Account	Fund	Qty	Value GBP	%	Price	Value			
City	LSE:BVC	25	1064.38 ↑	2.5	42.58	1064.38 GBP		Back	
City	LSE:DTK	100	137.50 ↓	-3.2	1.38	137.50 GBP		Add Quote	
City	LSE:GIM	30	621.00 ↑	0.0	20.70	621.00 GBP		Home	
City	LSE:PIC	100	800.50 ↓	-3.6	8.01	800.50 GBP		Book Marks	
City	LSE:PO.	100	900.50 ↑	0.1	9.01	900.50 GBP			
City	LSE:PON	100	3093.00 ↑	0.3	30.93	3093.00 GBP			
City	OS:NHY	15	376.88 ↑	5.0	335.00	5025.00 NK			
Total		-	9729.50	-	-	-			Mon 31

Portfolio Manager's Snapshot screen, listing shares held, price changes and total

Portfolio Manager's main screen. 'Add Quote' allows immediate updating of any share



A pie chart showing division of holdings. One of many possible reports

A graphical representation of your portfolio over a period of time...



input this data manually, along with any past price changes you want to record.

Once you have recorded this data, it can then be updated using a PC. You also can add data on any share or fund manually through the 'Add Quote' option, which is always available.

Over a period you build up a database which you can then quiz to find out how each share is doing, and to compare it with others or to an index such as the FTSE. You can append notes (and cut and paste information from the Internet) and set warnings, both by date and price. Portfolio Manager will also track

capital gains, share splits, dividends and additional costs like annual brokerage charges.

If you get lost with all the options and levels there's a 'Bookmark' feature to take you directly to the pages you consider most useful. The most popular view is likely to be 'Snapshot', which lists your shares, how much their value has changed since the previous quote and their total.

The lack of an option to bring data automatically from the Internet into Portfolio Manager using only your palmtop is disappointing. You may well get data from the web while on the

move, but you'll need to type it in, cut and paste, or import one fund at a time via an interim file.

Proper automation is only achieved with Portfolio Manager Agent on your PC. To set it up you first connect your palmtop to the PC, in order to give the Agent a list of the shares you currently hold. Then, one at a time, the Agent asks you to point to selected web sites to find future updates for those shares—currently only FT.Com and four regional flavours of Yahoo Financial are offered.

There's a bit of fuss about whether the shares are quoted in pounds (£8.92) or pence (892p), but once set up the Agent on the PC seems to retrieve quotes fairly reliably. It can be set to happen every time you start the PC or at regular intervals, and to transfer to the EPOC palmtop each time it's connected. You don't actually get to see the quotes on the PC, by the way.

It's a pity that this collated data can't be imported directly into your EPOC device from the web, without having to use a PC as a gateway. But when you consider the complexity of establishing a dial-up connection and interfacing with the EPOC TCP/IP stack to download raw information from financial sites, you can see why the authors have chosen the PC route.

Despite the reliance on a PC, Portfolio Manager is a worthy shares database for your EPOC computer. You can track the progress of multiple funds in multiple currencies on multiple exchanges in multiple countries, and that alone is pretty impressive.

In the future you will be able to walk around with a combined mobile phone/PDA, constantly receiving updated prices and breaking share news. Portfolio Manager, despite its connectivity shortcomings, makes

a reasonable starting point in getting to grips with this future.

Alan Roblou

Portfolio Manager

From: Major Psion dealers

Contact: www.palmtopsoftware.com

Availability: Now (English, French, German)

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £50 inc. VAT

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

TrueTerm Dictionaries

If I had to summarise this product in one word, it would be "quirky". Quite simply, the TrueTerm dictionaries do their own thing, with little regard for how other EPOC products are packaged and how they work. Which is not to say that they're not good translation dictionaries—they're excellent, in fact—but the TrueTerm experience does rather leave the user breathing a sigh of relief once switched back to a more conventional application.

Available principally through Go32.com's web site as multi-megabyte PC executables, each dictionary (English to Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch or Swedish) extracts to a set of files on the PC's hard disk and then via the usual SIS file installs to the palmtop. Once in place, each language takes up to 3MB of disk space. Although those without PCs will probably be frustrated by this system, AlphaSoft have plans to distribute their products using physical media and a more tolerant installation system.

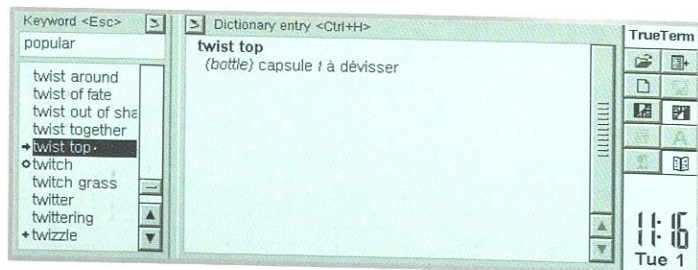
Starting TrueTerm and opening up one of the dictionaries reveals an intuitive and clean interface, with keywords down the left and dictionary entries in the main pane. Starting to type a keyword results in very fast quick-matching and it's easy to locate the word you're seeking. Over 100,000 keywords and entries are contained within each dictionary, so it's not surprising that the depth of transla-

tion is very good. A clever hypertext system means that holding down [Ctrl] and tapping on virtually any word in any entry reverses the translation, putting the tapped-on word in the keyword field and looking up relevant dictionary entries.

One of the selling points of the TrueTerm system is its extensibility. Not only can you add your own keywords and entries, you can amend those in the existing dictionaries, adding or editing text and comments, and applying text emphases and font changes if required, all directly using the main dictionary window. By selecting and copying text to the clipboard, you can paste it straight into other documents, with all formatting intact. If you're *really* determined, you can even create your own dictionary, using the TrueTerm 'engine'.

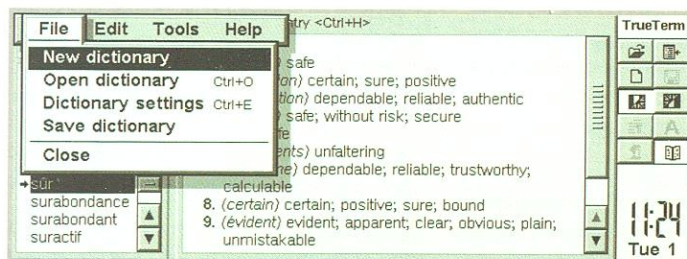
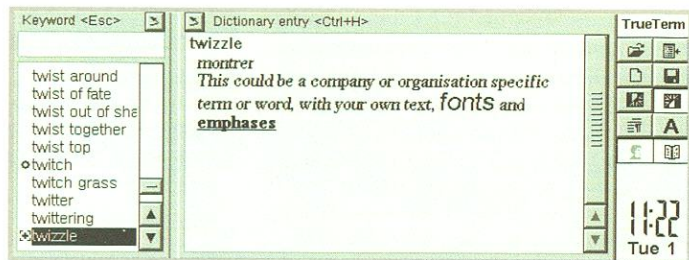
Using AlphaSoft's TrueTerm EPOCSync software, which ties into the usual PsiWin synchronisation system, these changes and additions can be made available on the Windows, Palm OS or Windows CE versions of TrueTerm, or even propagated onto your company network through TrueTermNet. Although these extra components weren't available for review and have yet to be proven, they show lots of promise for the corporate and educational sectors. See the developer's web site for up-to-date information.

Unfortunately, all this power comes at something of a price. In this case, it seems to be AlphaSoft's relative lack of familiarity with the



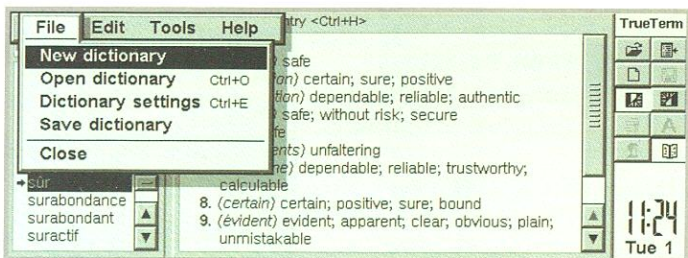
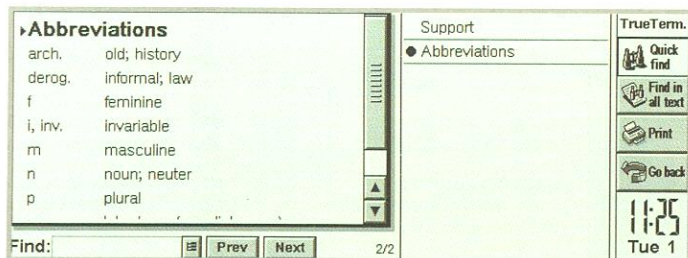
The TrueTerm interface, with symbols to denote the current keyword and those amended or added

Making up a new dictionary entry, with fully formattable text



An unusual 'File' menu. The dictionary entry for 'sur' is displaying in the main dictionary window pane

An unhelpful Help database



Drop down 'history' lists are available for previously-used keywords and entry hyperlinks

EPOC platform. To take just one example, [Ctrl]+[E] doesn't close TrueTerm, as it does virtually every other EPOC application. So I looked on the menu to find the shortcut

combination for 'Close'—there *isn't* one. All right, so then I checked the Help screens. Bad idea, the help database merely consists of the developer credits and a brief list of

abbreviations. As a last resort, I dug out the Adobe Acrobat (PDF) manual in the original distribution files, to discover that quite incredibly AlphaSoft's recommended technique for closing TrueTerm down quickly is to tap on the application title on the toolbar and close it from the System 'Open files' list!

There are plenty of other examples of this aversion to EPOC standards, such as 'Cut', 'Copy' and 'Paste' not having shortcuts either, or TrueTerm often not closing properly for backups because it gets hung up on a 'Save changes' dialog. Most of these problems could be fixed easily by its developers in future versions.

Prospective purchasers of the TrueTerm language dictionaries will, however, be mainly looking for quality and depth in the translations. They'll get no argument from me on that score.

Steve Litchfield

TrueTerm Dictionaries

From: Download from web site only

Contact: go32.com, www.go32.com
(developed by AlphaSoft,
www.trueterm.com)

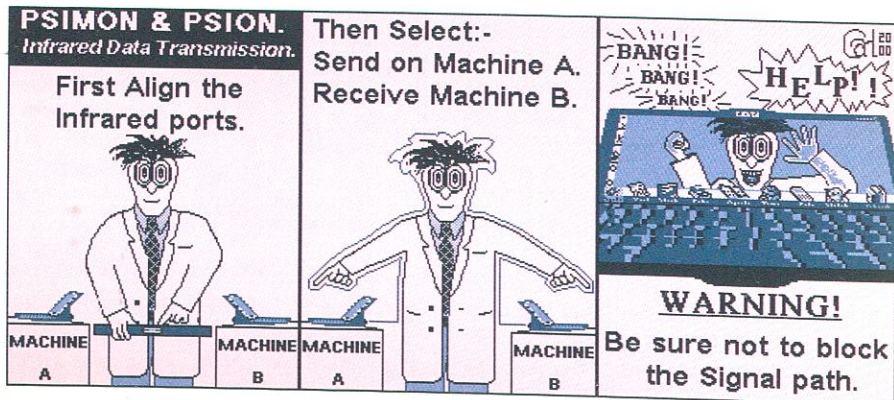
Availability: Now

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £25.00 + VAT

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★



RMRTV

If you're a regular TV viewer then you've probably lost count of the times you've either missed a program you intended to catch, or forgotten to record the last episode of that really gripping drama series.

Agenda is always to hand, of course, but requires that you enter all the details manually and assign reminder alarms on an *ad hoc* basis. These entries all conspire to clutter your Agenda, and unless you prefix them (or use a separate Agenda file, as described on page 103) you can't enter or view the TV programming schedule in isolation to all your other time commitments.

Enter RMRTV—the one-stop solution that logs details of all the programs you don't want

to miss, with their date, start and finish times, channel details and optional reminder alarms to sound in advance.

Further refinements allow you to flag selected programs to record rather than watch (visually reminding you to set the VCR, even if you haven't added an alarm), and to automatically repeat program reminders for either a set interval of days or a specific number of instalments—a neat touch. With support for all EPOC machines, you can even set your Series 7/netBook to show programs to record in, say, red text rather than just bold, italic, etc.

The program's main screen shows a single day's programs by default, with the spacebar toggling between today's date and the last day selected. RMRTV's extensive configura-

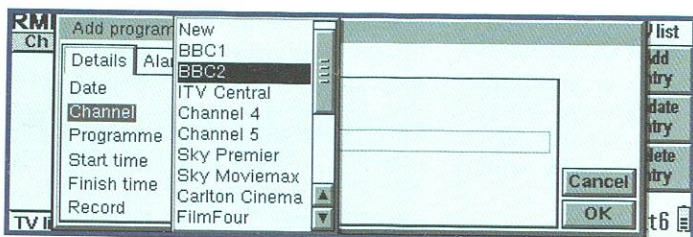
RMRTV					TV list
Ch	Programme	Date	12:00am	Time 12:00pm	
BBC2	Horizon	03 Feb 00		9:30pm—10:30pm	Add entry
Sky Movi	◊ Nil By Mouth	05 Feb 00	12:05am—1:30am		
FilmFour	Plein Soleil	06 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		Update entry
FilmFour	Bleak Moments	07 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
Sky Movi	◊ The Entity	09 Feb 00	12:00am—2:05am		Delete entry
FilmFour	Shanghai Triad	09 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
FilmFour	◊ Caged Heat	11 Feb 00	12:20am—1:45am		Repeat entry
FilmFour	The Craft	11 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
FilmFour	◊ Tommy	12 Feb 00	1:40am—3:00am		Today
FilmFour	Ziggy Stardust	12 Feb 00	8:00pm—11:00pm		
FilmFour	Cyrano de Bergerac	14 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:20pm		Jump
FilmFour	◊ Crooklyn	17 Feb 00	12:45am—2:40pm		
Sky Prem	Gargantua	17 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:20pm		Close
FilmFour	◊ Driller Killer	19 Feb 00	12:00am—1:45am		
FilmFour	Passion Fish	20 Feb 00	8:10pm—10:30pm		Help
FilmFour	◊ Dark Star	21 Feb 00	4:00am—6:00am		
FilmFour	The Sweet Hereafter	22 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
FilmFour	El	23 Feb 00	12:10am—2:00am		
FilmFour	Down by Law	23 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
FilmFour	◊ Wolfen	26 Feb 00	1:30am—4:30am		
FilmFour	Smoke	26 Feb 00	8:00pm—10:00pm		
FilmFour	Lodger, The	28 Feb 00	6:00pm—8:00pm		

Channel : All Programme : All Date : 01 Feb 00 - 29 Feb 00

22/22

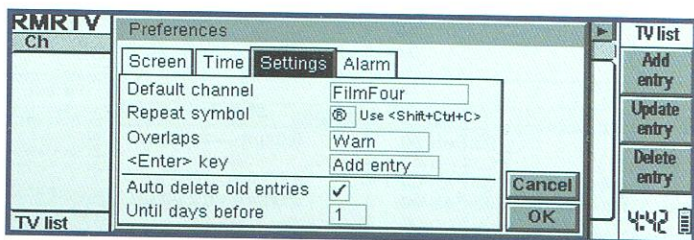
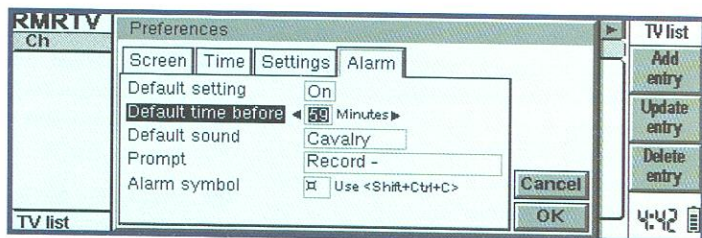


Full colour support for the Series 7 and netBook, showing RMRTV's filtered view



Quickly set up your own channels, then have RMRTV pop up a list for you to pick from

Setting alarms to remind you to set the video recorder



Setting defaults to further speed your entries

tion options allow you to use the [Enter] key to either pop up a dialog to make a new program entry, or to update the entry at the current cursor position. It can also be used to add a 'memo' entry for a selected item, though strangely no visible indication is given that it then has a memo attached, making the feature virtually useless.

It's quick and easy to set up all your TV channels to appear in a pop-up dialog box, so you can then select the one you want with nothing more than a couple of taps or keypresses. You can also change the default channel and start/finish times to speed the entry process even further. Sadly, when you've completed an entry you're not automatically taken to

that day's display, so you'll need to jump to it manually if you want to double check that everything was entered correctly.

Apart from the single day view, a quick press of [Ctrl]+[F] brings up a flexible filtering dialog that lets you view a list of programs by searching on any combination of name, channel, date ranges and record/repeat/alarmed status. This is the only way to view your TV scheduling for anything other than a 24 hour period, and the addition of a simple chronological list view would have been a sensible addition here, especially as entries can't be edited directly from the filtered view.

If you use RMRTV extensively you'll find yourself using the filtered view often, as in the

normal 'one day only' view, if a program starts after midnight then it only appears on the following day—so you'll miss it if you don't either set an alarm or keep scrolling to the next day to check. If you *do* use alarms to remind you of upcoming TV programs, the documentation warns that you do so sparingly. RMRTV can only use up to eight alarms, as it shares the built-in alarm server with the rest of the EPOC operating system. This is generally good programming practice as it prevents alarm conflicts between different programs, but it does rather limit usage of the facility.

Many people will use RMRTV by sitting down once a week or once a month with a TV listing book, entering everything of interest. If two entries would occupy the same time slot or overlap each other, the software can be set either to give a warning or to cancel the second entry. This is most useful, and helps you to plan which programs to watch and which to record. For cable/satellite channels it's commonplace for feature films to be repeated several times over a period, but RMRTV has no means of flagging multiple entries of the same program name, so you'll need to make sure you don't accidentally enter anything twice.

Overall, RMRTV makes TV scheduling quick and easy and is a big improvement on entering everything longhand into an Agenda file. Its configuration options enable users to reduce entries to a minimal number of keypresses, which is the whole point of using a custom program rather than a simple Agenda file.

On the downside, there are a number of ways in which the software could be improved: the addition of a simple list view to allow direct editing, better flagging of entries that start after midnight or during the early hours of the next day, a less restrictive alarm system, plus something to distinguish those entries that have a memo attached.

Despite the few rough edges, version 1.00 of RMRTV is already the best way to keep track of your TV scheduling, and kudos goes to RMR Software for being one of the first shareware houses to add full Revo and colour Series 7/netBook support to their new programs. With a little more work and attention to detail, RMRTV could become indispensable.

Steve Clack

RMRTV

From: Usual shareware sources

Contact: www.rmrsoft.com

Availability: Now (English)

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £10

Quality ★★★★★

Value ★★★★★

For Series 3 owners...

Series 3 users can perform similar TV scheduling with the freeware TVSched, as reviewed in issue 19.

TVSched can be found on all *Palmtop* CDs.

FixIt

The last time the UK telecommunications authorities forced a major phone number change on us was about four years ago. At that time Psion stepped into the breach with a freeware number conversion utility—this time round it's Purple Software, with FixIt, available only from their web site. FixIt will automatically change all your phone numbers as necessary, in preparation for the 'Big Number' changes to be implemented on 22nd April this year.

Although the utility is free, you do have to register with Purple, right down to providing your phone number (for their marketing purposes).

Starting the program reveals some clever design, with the program intelligently seeking out your 'master' Data or Contacts database. Each field in each entry containing a telephone number is then read into memory and sorted. If you're happy to check and change all numbers listed, 'Select all' followed by taps on the 'Check' and 'Change' buttons are sufficient to rework your entire database.

That's basically all there is to it. One large caveat is that if your contacts are in Data and you've inserted objects (e.g. Word, Sheet, Sketch, etc.) into *any* record, you'll be in trouble. Although the number translation in FixIt will appear to work, the database will be corrupt and trying to access the relevant

entries in Data will result in a fatal error. As advised by Purple, a full backup is strongly advised before running the program.

Apart from this, FixIt seems quite capable, recognising and handling several different forms of telephone number notation, and supporting multiple translation files (so you can in theory set up the utility to handle other number changes in the future or in other parts of the world).

Steve Litchfield

FixIt

From: Usual shareware sources

Contact: www.purplesoft.com

Availability: Now

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: FREE

Quality ★★★★★☆

Value N/A (free)

Some 'fixing' in progress...

Type	Entry	Phone number	Changes to	FixIt
Home tel	Faith Christian ...	0118 9509693	No change	Check
Home tel	Ferret Informati...	01222 644660	(029) 2064 4660	Change
Home tel	FIA	0171 5813567	(020) 7581 3567	Trans
Home tel	Forte Hotels	Head Office 012...	No change	
Home tel	Foster-Harrington	01276 692233	No change	
Home tel	Fred Fiquet	01403 575145	No change	
Home tel	Freephone Poll...	0800 333777	No change	

Street Planner Millenium

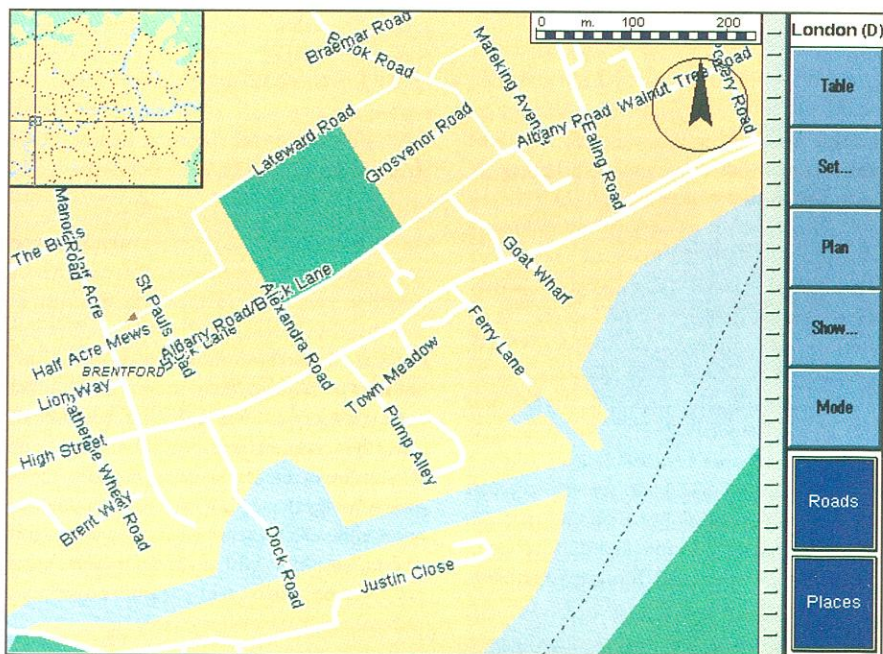
Route planning on a palmtop computer was always a match made in heaven, and Palmtop Software's Route Planner and Street Planner range have long been the cream of the crop.

It's important at this stage to understand the fundamental difference between Route Planner (as reviewed in the last issue of *Palmtop*) and Street Planner. The former gives entire countries down to 'B' road level, and is designed for finding your way between two separate cities, towns or villages. Street Planner cannot do this, but instead offers far more detailed maps to help find your way between two named streets *within* a single area, city, town or village. Street Planner requires you to separately install those towns, areas or counties you need. Given that maps

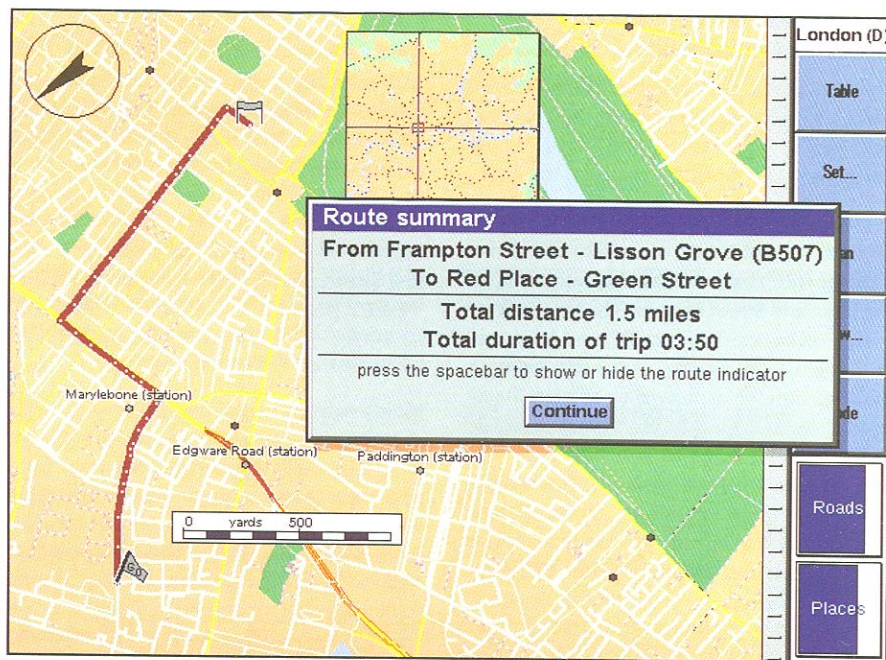
for the entire UK would take up several hundred megabytes, it's important to be a little selective during installation. As a rough guide, a 40km square map of Greater London takes just over 3MB of space, with most town and city maps taking around 100K-1MB.

Although only a few maps were available for the pre-release software tested here, two versions of Street Planner are apparently in the pipeline, as with the previous version: one covering the UK only, and another covering major cities of Western Europe.

Most town/city maps cover an area showing even the smallest roads in the smallest villages, provided that the road has a name. Each map now covers a larger area than before, with more smaller towns and cities incorporated within a single map. Other maps within



Street Planner in glorious colour, on the Series 7/netBook



A route summary with directions highlighted in red on the map

a single country now appear as selectable shaded rectangles that can simply be tapped on to switch to the new area.

Installation from the supplied CD is simple, with a friendly Windows setup routine for PC users. Everything is also supplied as standard EPOC 'SIS' files and file folders for those running other platforms. This support for non-PC users is a thoughtful addition, and something Palmtop Software are to be praised for.

Street Planner's interface will be instantly recognisable to anyone who has already used Route Planner, but in this update from Street Planner '99 (reviewed back in issue 20) there have been some huge improvements to the way maps are navigated on screen

and some additional flexibility in presenting the data.

Calculating a journey is as simple as popping up the 'Plan a route' dialog then selecting departure and destination streets. You can choose whether you want to take the quickest or shortest route (calculated from a combination of distances and the settings you've previously entered for average road speeds on different road categories). The software importantly takes one way streets into full account, and you can even select a 'walking' route, ignoring one-way systems. You can also set specific areas you wish to avoid *en route*, and the software now allows you to define locations that are blocked or slowed by traffic, on either a temporary or permanent basis.

Plan a route

General Vias

Find: Quickest route

Departure: Dagmar Road

Destination: East Burnham Lane - Allers Road

Planning accuracy: 95 %

Use vias: ☒

Use avoided areas: ☐

Use avoided roads: ☐

Location

Overlay

Reverse

Clear

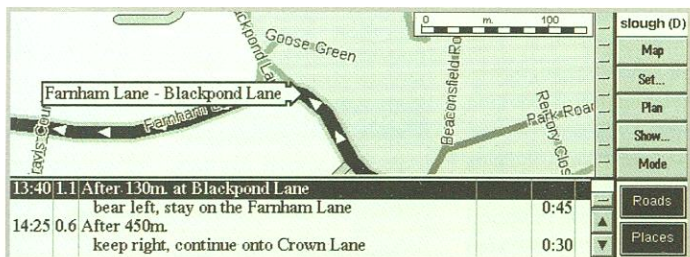
Cancel

Ok

Planning a route

*List view, with
customisable,
detailed
instructions*

Time	Km	Instruction	Roads	For	slough (D)
06:45	4.5	After 600m.			
		cross the roundabout (2nd exit) to Tuns Lane	A355	0:10	Map
06:55	4.5	After 55m.			Set...
		continue on the Tuns Lane	A355	3:50	Plan
10:45	2.1	After 2.3 km. at Farnham Road (A355)			Show...
		cross the roundabout (2nd exit) to Farnham Road	A355	0:10	Mode
10:55	2.1	After 60m.			
		continue on the Farnham Road	A355	2:10	Roads
13:05	1.2	After 850m.			Places
		bear left onto Farnham Lane		0:30	
13:40	1.1	After 130m. at Blackpond Lane			



*Split view,
showing map
and text
instructions
simultaneously*

It's also possible to set up to four 'vias' on the route, which are simply stop-off points along the way. This saves you from having to plan each leg of a multi-stop route separately, another welcome feature.

Entering your departure and destination points is especially easy, with a match-as-you-type dialog that shows all street names beginning with the letters you've typed so far. The list also shows major train and subway stations, plus major filling stations. Once all the criteria are set, generally the work of a few seconds, you just tap on 'OK' and watch Street Planner calcu-

late the optimum route. For longer journeys in built-up areas this can involve analysing more than 100,000 alternative roads and can sometimes take a minute or two to complete—still admirably fast for the amount of processing required.

Once done, you're presented with a route summary showing the distance and estimated time to complete the journey, with the map automatically zoomed to show the entire journey, highlighted from start to finish.

A quick tap of the on-screen 'Table' button breaks the journey down into a tabulated list

of instructions, showing distances, direction changes, elapsed times and descriptive text for every road, junction and roundabout. A 'split' view is also available to show map and tabular data simultaneously, and in this version can now be split either vertically or horizontally.

Zooming the detail in map view was previously achieved by tapping on the left or right side of small 'Roads', 'Places' and 'Scale' controls near the bottom of the screen. Street Planner Millennium introduces a new 'continuous' scroll bar down the edge of the screen that can simply be dragged up or down to zoom the map scale to any level you desire. This feature is incredibly slick, and much faster than tapping endlessly.

Another great new feature is the ability to rotate the map without turning your palmtop upside down. Just tap and rotate the on-screen 'North' pointer to any orientation and the map display follows—in real time. Dragging across the display will move the map in that direction, and when in 'scroll mode' you can also navigate manually with the arrow keys. Tapping on a street will bring up its name, including any associated road number, and additional on-screen elements such as the map scale can be dragged freely to any position you desire.

As with Route Planner, 'overlays' are supported, which can be created to provide additional features of interest to appear on the maps as desired.

As you'd expect from Palmtop Software, Street Planner has full GPS support, using either their own excellent in-car unit (reviewed in the last issue) or any other compatible device.

Street Planner works on all EPOC devices, with the software automatically adjusting to fill the available screen space, with colour

support for the Series 7 and netBook. Revo users will, of course, have to be frugal with their installations though, to prevent their memory becoming entirely filled with maps. Having said that, most Revo users should be able to squeeze in a map of their own home area, which in itself is often useful enough to warrant the purchase of Street Planner.

There are numerous other small enhancements to this version of Street Planner, but ultimately it's sufficient to say that this software has all the features you need for effective urban route planning. If you have a use for such a tool, and most of us do, then this is the only EPOC-based product on the market. It incorporates an astonishing level of sophistication, and if ever there was a 'killer' application for EPOC then this is it. Now if only every country of the world was included and I had a gigabyte of spare CF memory...

Steve Clack

Street Planner Millennium

From: Major Psion dealers

Contact: www.palmtopsoftware.com

Availability: April 2000

Runs on: All EPOC machines

Price: £49.99 inc. VAT (provisional)
(upgrade policy not yet announced)

Quality	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆

Living with the

Series 7 (and netBook!)

Steve Clack and Nigel Wright take a long-term look at Psion's new colour computers

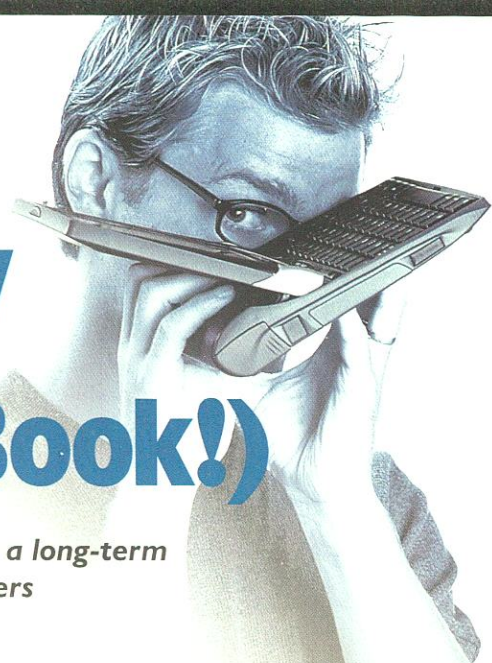
Series 7 or netBook?

At the time of the Series 7's launch, and our original review in issue 25, it appeared that the netBook was to be for vertical market applications only and thus unavailable through normal retail channels. That situation has now changed (at least through some mail order dealers) with the netBook now available pre-loaded with the full suite of ER5 EPOC applications.

So, if you're in the market for a sub-notebook-sized EPOC device then which should you buy? Here's a summary of the important differences.

- ▶ The Series 7 comes with 16MB of memory as standard, upgradeable to 32MB. The netBook comes with 32MB as standard, upgradeable to 64MB.
- ▶ The Series 7 has a 130Mhz StrongArm SA-1100 processor (upgraded from the original specification of 100Mhz). The netBook has a 190Mhz processor, and is thus almost 50% faster.

- ▶ The Series 7's EPOC operating system and built-in applications are housed on an internal ROM chip, just like all Psion's handheld computers and is thus not upgradeable. The netBook loads the operating system into internal RAM at startup, and can be user upgraded simply by downloading a new 'ROM image' file. Note that as a result, more than 13MB of the netBook's memory is always occupied, giving the 32MB model about the same available memory as a 16MB Series 7. In the event of a major system crash or total battery failure the netBook operating will of course be erased from memory. netBooks are therefore supplied with a 16MB CompactFlash containing a copy of the single 'OS.img' file.
- ▶ Future Ethernet networking support is planned for the netBook via the PC card slot. Although the Series 7 also has a PC card slot, it will not have Ethernet support.
- ▶ The Series 7 is finished with a dark blue leather wrap-around, whereas that on the netBook is black. The two machines also



have different nameplates on the casing, of course.

- The 16MB Series 7 has an RRP of £700 including VAT, the 32MB netBook is approximately £200 more, depending upon who you buy it from.

Remember that the two machines are essentially identical hardware, both made by Psion Enterprise Computing (Psion's industrial division). For practical purposes, any software that runs on one will run on both (except for a tiny few memory-hungry Java applications—such as the Adobe Acrobat Viewer as discussed on page 52—that may need the netBook's 64MB upgrade).

EPOC goes large

On the face of it, the Series 7/netBook uses virtually the same software as other ER5 EPOC devices, such as the Series 5mx and Revo, with some minor tweaks to accommodate the larger, colour screen. Anyone already used to EPOC will have nothing new to learn, apart from looking out for a few extra toolbar buttons that have been added to take advantage of the taller screen, and getting used to the addition of colour display and font options in the built-in applications.

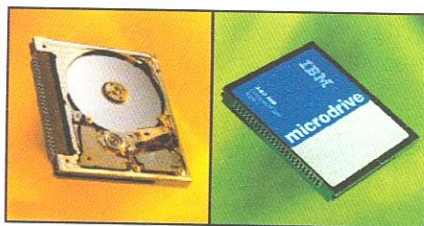
With the exception of a few games, which work in a reduced window, most commercial applications for the Series 5 will automatically adjust to fill the larger screen, though most don't include colour support as yet. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, colour support is already beginning to appear on new EPOC products, and given the inevitable appearance of a colour Psion palmtop in the not-too-distant future, it's safe to say that colour applications will be quick to materialise.

In issue 24, we discussed precautions to be taken when moving from the Series 5 to the

5mx. These are equally relevant in the case of the Series 7/netBook and we had several infrared communications problems when accidentally installing a patch not meant for these devices.

Expandability

The Series 7/netBook's CompactFlash slot differs from those on previous EPOC computers in that it also accepts the thicker 'Type II' devices such as IBM's new Microdrive. These are actually tiny hard disk drives, currently available in 170MB and 340MB variants. We've tested these and they work beautifully on the Series 7 and netBook, giving vast storage space for those who need it at a realistic price of around £200-300.



Not to be forgotten is the standard PC card (previously known as PCMCIA card) slot. This can be used for a PC card modem, PC card solid state storage devices (similar to CF), or for insertion of a second CF card (via a CF to PC card adaptor).

The 16MB and 32MB RAM memory expansion modules should be available in time for the next issue of Palmtop, so we'll be reporting on how to install them at that time. The 64MB maximum memory of the netBook may seem excessive for an EPOC computer, but remember that unlike PCs the memory can also be used for data storage, provided that you keep regular backups for safety.



The netBook's CompactFlash drawer and RS232 serial port

Seeing double

A common question for Psion/EPOC palmtop owners is "Is it practical to have a Series 7 or netBook as well as a palmtop?" The answer to this question is undoubtedly yes. With full file compatibility between all machines it's an easy matter to switch CF disks from one computer to the other (after closing down all the open files first) and continuing where you left off. Remember that licensing issues will prevent some add-on software from being carried between computers in this way, but all your data will open without trouble. Interestingly, if you move a file from a Series 7 or netBook and subsequently re-save it on a monochrome-screened EPOC palmtop, colour information on fonts and graphics are *not* lost, though you can't of course add further colour information while working in monochrome.

Files can also be transferred between machines via infrared, making it doubly easy to fire your work across from the larger machine to a Series 5, Revo, etc., pop the smaller machine into your pocket and go. A Revo is a particularly good 'accessory' for a Series 7 or netBook, providing a highly pocketable alternative for those times when 1.1kg is simply too much to carry.

A laptop replacement?

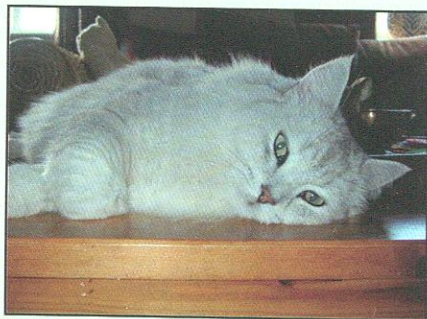
On the following six pages we take a look at how EPOC works in colour, and give two personal perspectives on how the Series 7 and netBook perform against larger laptop computers. If you're considering the purchase of either machine then read on...

EPOC goes colour

No photographs, please!

Although the Series 7 and netBook mark EPOC's first appearance in colour, all is not necessarily as it may seem. Psion's original specification of 4096 colours (as reported in our review in issue 25) was abandoned on final production units, in favour of a 256 colour display. This makes no practical difference to the built-in office applications, which generally support only 16 colours anyway, but makes these machines a poor choice for anyone wishing to view high resolution photographs with realistic reproduction.

Although it's quite possible to take photographs with a digital camera and transfer them to a Series 7/netBook via infrared or CompactFlash, the results are invariably disappointing. 256 colour reproduction can also sour the World Wide Web experience, making certain web sites appear unattractively 'dithered', though still easily readable (and still a vast improvement on monochrome EPOC devices).



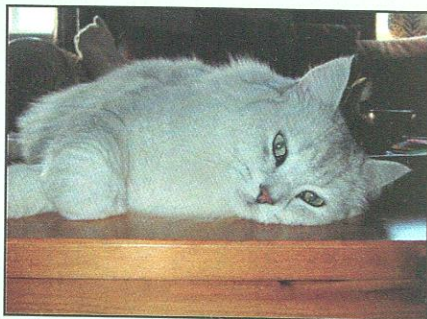
A photograph taken with a good quality digital camera...

Provided that you *don't* wish to undertake any photographic work, the big colour display is clear, bright and a pleasure to use, except when used outdoors in sunlight, when it (like all similar colour LCDs) becomes virtually invisible.

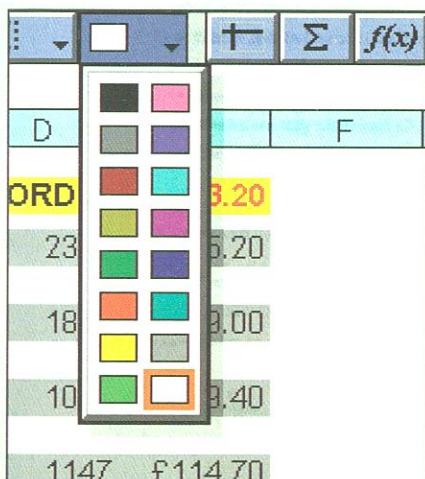
The addition of colour to spreadsheets in particular can be a great boon, with suitably shaded text and highlighted cells making even the most complex worksheets easy to read. Do remember that these machines have no colour printer support at present, so you are currently limited to outputting your masterpieces in drab greyscales.

Pick a colour

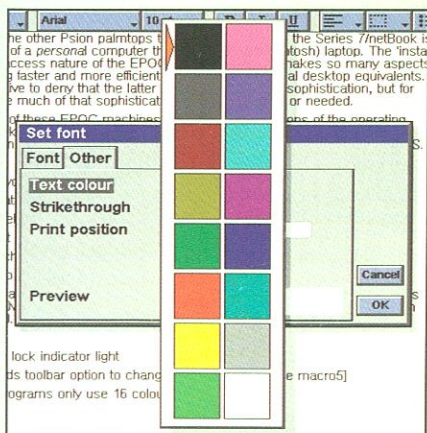
Selection of shading or drawing colours in Sheet and Sketch are quickly accessible (see screen images on next page) but colouring of text in Word or other text-oriented documents is awkwardly implemented, requiring you to go into the font menu and



...and as viewed on a Series 7 or netBook screen



Easy selection of highlight colours (16 only, of course) in Sheet



Selecting a text colour from the 'Set font' dialog in Word

select 'Text colour' from the resulting submenu. Macro5 users can avoid the extra keystrokes with a simple macro to automatically jump into the required dialog box and make the change.

Overall, the current implementation of colour for EPOC represents a welcome improvement that makes the operating system more pleasant to use. The appearance of colour printer drivers will take the experience to the next level, enabling useful embellishments to the printed page as well as the on-screen display.

For those expecting 'high quality' colour the current displays are bound to be a disappointment. Note, however, that 256 colours is a limitation of the screens being used, not an inherent limitation of the operating system, which has the capacity to support many thousands of colours.



A personal perspective - Nigel Wright

As a writer and frequent traveller, I do much of my work while on the move. I'd previously found the Series 5mx too small for typing really large amounts of text, and my PC laptop is limited by its weight and battery life. The Series 7 or netBook offers a good compromise between the two extremes.

The Series 7/netBook feels strong and well-made, but also quite heavy at about 1.1kg, so I doubt I'll be carrying it on my trouser belt. For me, the best features are the adjustable screen and the keyboard. I found the 5mx screen to be murky and of low contrast, which makes it a struggle to use in certain lighting conditions. Many people argue against colour screens on the grounds of battery life, but if the primary output device is hard to use then so, in my view, is the computer.

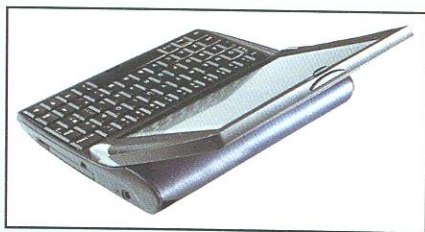
Revelations...

The Series 7/netBook has changed that. The screen is nothing special when compared against a modern laptop or many Windows CE rivals, having only 256 colours. Compared to that of the 5mx though, it's a revelation. The screen is bright, has good contrast and is very easy to read. One quirk is that it takes a few seconds after switch-on for the colour and contrast to stabilise, and of course (as with most laptops) it's useless in bright sunlight.

The keyboard is roomy and responsive. It allows fast and tireless typing and is easily the best keyboard I have used on any computer. The only minor criticism I have is that Psion have moved some of the keys relative to their positions on the Series 5. Most annoyingly, the [Fn] and [Menu] keys have been swapped around. Although a design decision to bring the machines into line with desktop layouts,

this causes me occasional problems when it comes to selecting EPOC shortcuts.

Most of the built-in applications make good use of the screen, and this really does make them feel more capable. The Series 7/netBook is great for viewing documents, composing lengthy passages of text and working with spreadsheets. I'd have no hesitation writing a novel on the netBook, although the spell checker is still horribly slow. Agenda's busy and year views are also much clearer on the bigger screen, and I now find them quite usable.



Weak web

Web browsing is much improved over the 5mx, partly because of the larger, colour screen and partly because of the extra horsepower of the processor. The browser is still very slow to render images though, and in this respect the netBook falls a long way short of a traditional laptop. In my opinion, it's only suitable for occasional browsing, and the lack of support for 'secure sockets' means that applications such as online banking are still out of reach.

Although it fulfils my own needs admirably, the sums might not add up for other people. For a little more money I could buy a laptop with built-in modem, CD drive, 64MB RAM, a 4GB hard drive and a quantum leap in function-

ality. In that context the Series 7 or netBook are too expensive, even when the advantages of instant on/off, robust physical construction, stable software and battery life are taken into account.

It's no palmtop

If you're looking for a Series 3/Series 5 replacement then forget it—the netBook is just too big. In general day-to-day use for Contacts and Agenda management it's less convenient because of the reduced portability. Think of it instead as an ultra-portable notebook computer, where it amply fills most word processing, email and spreadsheeting needs.

Handy PC card slot

The ability to use a PC-card modem is a big bonus for me. I know the arguments against such a device concerning battery life, but I found the combination of PC-card adaptor, extra batteries and multiple trailing cables just too much. And when I need to use it, Internet access via my infrared-enabled Ericsson SH888 mobile phone also works well.

PsiWin woes

The netBook comes with PsiWin 2.3, so those who've experienced trouble with the current package are going to be disappointed that there is no improvement here. Having said that, I have no problems synching mail or contacts to Outlook 2000 on either my netBook or 5mx.

There's still no on-board file conversion, which makes it almost impossible to deal with common PC file formats while away from base (and from PsiWin). As the netBook in particular is intended for corporate use, I find this a curious omission. The continued absence of Rich Text Format (RTF) handling is unfor-

givable—six years ago the Series 3a could easily exchange documents without recourse to PsiWin, so why not now?

With regular Internet access provided by my power-hungry PC-card modem I get about eight hours of continuous use. Careful control of the screen's backlight, with limited modem use, can see this extended to 10 hours or more (it's difficult to be exact because the software doesn't record time between charges). Recharging typically takes less than two hours, which is exceptionally convenient.

In practice, battery life is more than adequate. I recently had reason to be in Switzerland and Holland for a week—a single charge lasted through six flights, some waiting time in airport lobbies and still provided me with a few hours use when I got home.

The Lithium-Ion battery can be recharged at any time within its discharge cycle without detrimental effect on lifetime, so I really can't see battery life being a problem. What is a problem though is that the mains adaptor lead is too short—it's barely long enough to reach the netBook on my desk.

Printing

Printing via PsiWin to my HP LaserJet 4MP is good—no complaints here. Printing directly via a parallel link is a joke (as it is with other EPOC machines)—the number of drivers is still very limited, the print rate is painfully slow and the results are variable. For some reason the Arial font appears as Times New Roman when printing direct. I could buy virtually any conventional laptop and printer, load the appropriate drivers and within minutes be printing professional documents. At a price close to some low-end laptops the netBook should be no different.

Nigel Wright

A personal perspective - Steve Clack

Some years ago I travelled extensively as part of my job, but nowadays it's more a question of ensuring that I continue to stay productive while travelling by train, on holiday or when sitting at home.

Working on the move

Until the arrival of the Series 7 and netBook I invariably used a Series 5 when travelling—something that has enabled me to write draft articles and keep business-related databases and spreadsheets at my fingertips. I have an Apple iBook laptop which I use primarily for email and web access at home, connecting to a 128k ISDN line via a wireless radio link. Despite finding the laptop superb for this, I would never consider carrying it on a train journey or short-haul flight, despite its 5-6 hour battery life—it's simply too heavy.

Many years of travelling taught me to go for the lightweight solution wherever possible, and although the Series 7 and netBook weigh about three times more than a Series 5, it's still only one third weight of my iBook laptop and far less bulky, hence no competition.

Mac un-friendly EPOC

The lack of any email synching capability between EPOC and the Apple Macintosh computers I use at home and throughout the Palmtop Publications office mean that I generally abandon any designs on emailing while I'm away from base. For a long trip I'd simply *have* to live with the extra weight of the laptop, simply to keep me effectively in touch.

Connectivity issues notwithstanding, the Series 7 and netBook are superb tools for a writer or journalist. Comparatively long

battery life, comfortable display and touch typeable keyboard that's almost (but not quite) as good as my laptop's, make a package that's perfect for composing even the longest articles. Compatibility rears its ugly head once again though, with the lack of a Word export filter making it necessary to save articles as raw text for final polishing on a desktop computer.

Getting personal

For general business tasks such as composing numerous (usually quite small) spreadsheets and databases for various facts, figures and statistics, I prefer the netBook over *any* other computer—period. The ability to keep quite literally dozens of documents always open and accessible within a couple of seconds is something no desktop computer operating system can match.

As with all the Psion palmtops that have preceded it, the Series 7 and netBook are much more of a *personal* computer than any PC or Macintosh laptop. The 'instant on, instant access' nature of the EPOC operating system makes so many aspects of computing faster and more efficient than with 'conventional' computers. It would be naive to deny that the latter ultimately offer more sophistication, but for many uses that sophistication is neither wanted or needed.

The right tool

Much of the work I do requires manipulation of graphics and photographic images for publication. For this kind of work these EPOC devices are virtually worthless, due to the lack of any suitably sophisticated software and the rather primitive 256 colour display. This, however, is absolutely not what they were

designed for. These machines are perfect for people who need to travel with something that's big enough to allow lots of data entry, and has a screen that doesn't cause eye strain after an hour or two. It's too heavy to take the place of a palmtop, but when slipped inside the average briefcase or rucksack is quite an acceptable load.

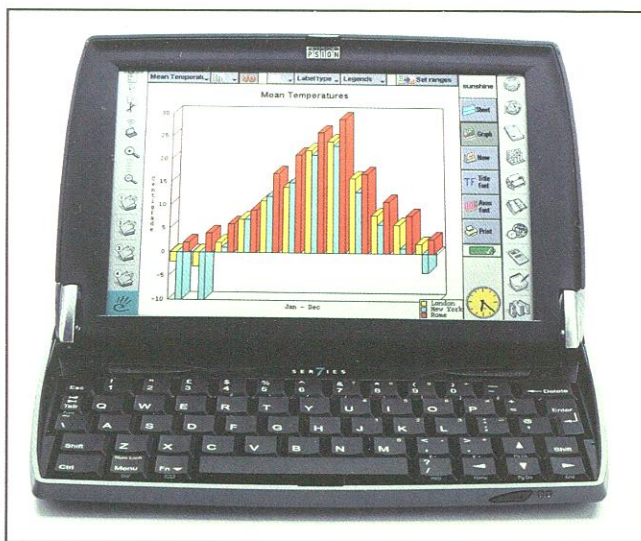
Two for tea

What these sub-notebook computers lack in their ability to interchange files directly with non-Psion user's computers is partially made up by their hundred-percent compatibility with EPOC palmtops. Although comparable in cost to a decent laptop, a Series 7 (or netBook) together with a Revo or 5mx make a *perfect* pair. Take the bigger machine with you when convenient, then switch CF disks or beam your current work to the palmtop when you need something pocketable. Of course, you'll need to keep track of what data resides where, but the ability to keep the same documents running in either form factor is so convenient.

Backups on the go

Keeping adequate backups while travelling is always a concern, and laptop computer hard disks are particularly vulnerable to failure during a harsh travel environment. The PC card slot on the Series 7 and netBook means

that you can copy a complete mirror image of your main CF disk onto either a PC card or a second CompactFlash (via an adaptor) and slip that backup safely into a pocket, separate from the main machine. Anyone who has been caught thousands of miles from home with a broken laptop hard disk will appreciate this concept.



The road warrior

Those accustomed to working with a conventional laptop on long journeys will be only too familiar with the concept of exhausted batteries. With these EPOC devices a second battery pack (soon to become available) will see you safely through a long-haul flight taking you to the opposite side of the globe, working for the entire journey. For me, that kind of flexibility is what portable computing's all about.

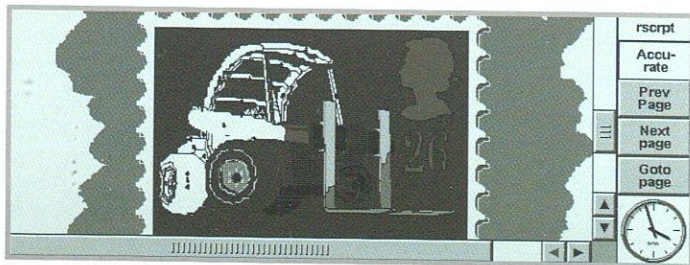
Steve Clark

Training the Acrobat

Adobe's Acrobat (PDF) format is rapidly becoming an industry standard for manuals and graphics-rich information, but how can you make use of it on your palmtop? John Woodthorpe looks at the current state of play...

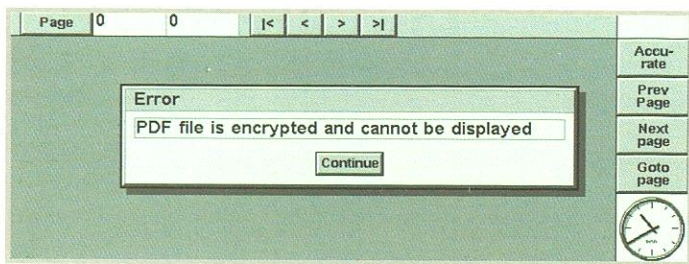
There are several types of file that have become 'de facto' standards. A platform usually has to be able to read these for it to be of any use in receiving information from the world as a whole. The main problem comes when a format is proprietary and the owner will not make it publicly available, or else wants a large license fee before passing on the details to a developer. One such case is Adobe's Acrobat system for distributing compact, graphics-rich documentation files, usually given the extension PDE, or Portable Document Format. PDF files are rapidly becoming the standard means for distributing computer manuals on CD-ROM and via the Internet, and indeed much of the Psion documentation on the PsiWin CD uses this very format.

EPOC has previously been unable to read PDF files or attachments, and in cases like this it is often useful to look across and see what the UNIX community has done. There are often some very clever reverse-engineered approaches to such problems, with the results made available free of charge for non-commercial use. In the case of PDF files, an application called 'xpdf' is available as C++ source code for porting to other platforms. I've been using the Acorn RISC OS port of this for several years now and it seemed to be just a matter of time before someone took up the challenge of using the same code to write a PDF reader for EPOC.



Pictures can be seen in all their (muddy) glory

The use of any security features will prevent files from being displayed with the Pdf program



PDF on EPOC

Enter *Pdf*, by Sander van der Wal. His first alpha version was a bit slow and didn't display graphics, but it did allow the text within many PDF files to be displayed on screen. A few weeks after the first release, an updated version (currently 0.11) appeared, correcting a number of problems and for the first time displaying graphics.

Hopefully the application will develop to the extent of the other xpdf ports. Of course the major limitation of this approach is that when Adobe update their Acrobat file format it will take a while for the necessary corrections to appear in the xpdf code. Indeed, there's no guarantee that this will ever happen at all. Given that Adobe have done exactly that recently, in releasing Acrobat 4, an increasing number of newly created PDF files will be incompatible with Pdf and will thus display incorrectly.

Limited compatibility

So apart from very new Acrobat files, what else *can't* it display? Any files that use compression or any form of encryption can't be read at the moment. The reason for the latter problem is the familiar bugbear that has stopped Psion from providing a secure (SSL) web browser: the US export restrictions that treat some encryption algorithms as munitions and forbid their export. Some of these

laws have recently been relaxed, but it will take a while for the effects to filter through. Notwithstanding the official problem, there is a third party decryption patch available for the original source code (on a German web site, to get around the restrictions), but this hasn't yet made it into the EPOC port. Now encryption doesn't have to mean that the file is password protected. In fact, if it has been created such that the original cannot be edited further, this counts as encryption and stops display under EPOC Pdf. This unfortunately applies to most of the files Psion provide on the PsiWin CD. In such cases Pdf complains very gently about the US Government and then displays a blank screen.

The most useful feature of Pdf is the ability to extract the text from a displayed file, and often that's all you really want. Given that the program has a lot of work to do in displaying a file, it isn't exactly swift, but if you're travelling and desperately need to read a downloaded PDF file, there's at least a chance of doing so now. Keep an eye on www.xs4all.nl/~svdwal/Pdf/pdf.htm. Future versions should start to address some of the remaining gaps in what is a very promising application.

RAM crazy

If you run a Series 7 or netBook and have at least 15MB of free RAM, you may like to try out Adobe's own Java Acrobat Viewer, as described on the following page...

Adobe's Java Acrobat Viewer

If you go to Adobe's web site, you can download their own Java Acrobat viewer, that should run on Java-enabled EPOC computers. In practice, the viewer takes at least 10-15MB of free memory just to open, and even then usually refuses to zoom or scroll without crashing due to low memory. It's also very slow, even on a 190Mhz netBook! We'll test this product again when the 64MB netBook RAM upgrade is available, at which point we can give it 50MB or so in which to run. In the meantime, don't even consider running it on anything slower than a Series 7.

If you'd like to give the Adobe viewer a try, then here's the procedure:

1. Install the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) onto your EPOC machine, (see the second part of our Java article on page 68 of issue 26).
2. Go to the Java Viewer download page of the Adobe web site (currently www.adobe.com/products/acroviewer/main.html), follow the instructions, and download the 'Bean.zip' file from the 'Acrobat Viewer JavaBean' section.
3. Unzip and extract the file called 'Acrobat.jar'. Copy this to anywhere on your EPOC device.
4. Install and launch Eshell.exe (see page 70 of issue 26), and at the prompt (see top of screen shot below) type the line below, matching all case and capitalisation *exactly* and ensuring that the pathname points to the correct location of the 'Acrobat.jar' file:

```
java -cp C:\Acrobat.jar com.adobe.acrobat.Viewer
```

The viewer will then load (it may take a minute or so)—if you have enough free memory...



The Java Acrobat reader running (barely) on a 190Mhz netBook

Getting along with Money

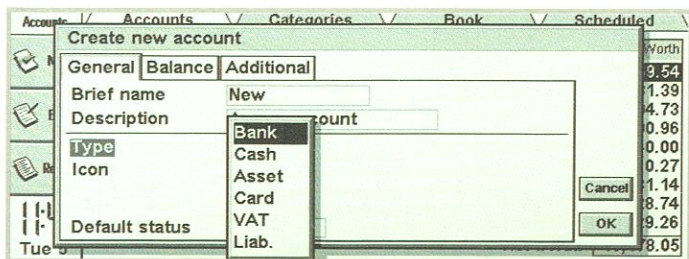
Nigel Wright takes an in-depth look at EPOC's most powerful and flexible bank account manager...

In these days of credit cards, pensions and multiple bank accounts, a good personal banking application can soon pay for itself by allowing accurate tracking and forecasting of expenditure. To date, Palmtop Software's Money is the only commercial product available for the EPOC range (although there are a number of freeware and shareware alternatives—see our roundup in issue 17). Having purchased version 1.0, Money on my Series 5 has been successively 'patched' to version 1.61, using the free upgrades available at Palmtop Software's web site (www.palmtopsoftware.com). The site also carries a 'demo' version, which allows you to try out the software before committing to a purchase.

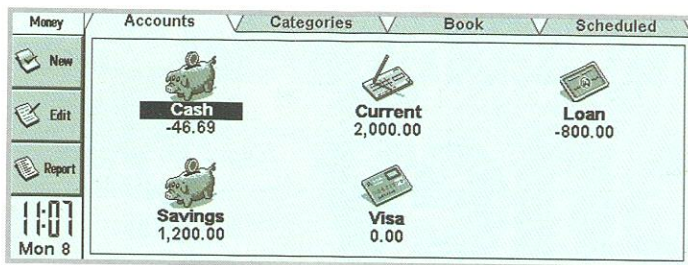
Getting started

Money is a double-entry bookkeeping system which broadly follows accepted accounting principles. It benefits enormously from careful setting up, with accounts, income/expense categories and standing orders that have to be defined. This can seem a bit long-winded, but the benefits are very worthwhile in allowing accurate financial management. When starting up for the first time you are presented with a dialog for setting up an account. Six types of account can be created:

- ▶ **Bank:** current accounts, savings accounts, etc.
- ▶ **Credit card:** credit cards, store cards and so on.
- ▶ **Asset:** money owed to you by others.



Creating a new account with Palmtop Software's Money



Money's iconic view, showing different account categories

- ▶ **Liability:** money you owe to others, such as loans.
- ▶ **VAT:** Value Added Tax, only necessary if you're running a business.
- ▶ **Cash:** money in your pocket.

When creating a new account, the present balance should be included. With something like a current account you'll probably find that it'll take several days or weeks to get Money's balance to agree with that on ATM receipts or bank statements. This is because you might have several transactions in the pipeline that have yet to be cleared by the bank, such as cheques written but not yet cashed by the recipients. Liability accounts should always have a negative balance because that's money you owe, and as repayments are made the balance will decrease to zero.

Once an account has been created, the Accounts screen appears, listing all that have been set up. This can be configured to appear in a graphical format (i.e. using icons) from

within the Preferences dialog. At the bottom of the screen there's a box labelled 'Net worth', the sum of all accounts, assets, savings, credit cards, etc. It's an indicator of financial well-being, which hopefully increases month by month.

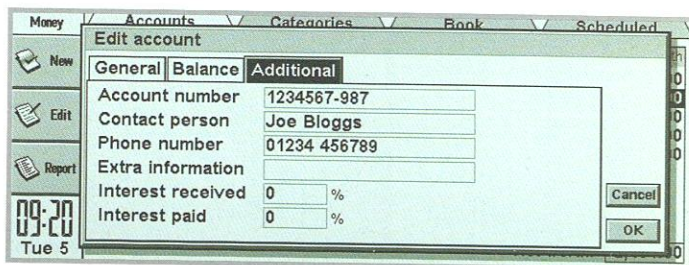
Additional account information

When setting up an account, extra information such as account and PIN number, contact details, etc. can be added. These can be protected if you also set up a password. You may also wish to consider including the account number in the description line, because it's then immediately available if ever you have to call your bank with a query.

Categories and subcategories

Before any meaningful transactions can be entered, income and expenditure categories have to be defined. These can be thought of as ways for money to enter (or leave) your

Adding extra account information for your reference



*Breaking down
your
transactions
into a
meaningful
category list*

Money	Accounts	Categories	Book	Scheduled
New	Category	Type Description		Expe...
Edit	Car	Exp Car expenses		
Report	Fuel	Exp Car fuel		
09:10 Tue 5	Ins/tax	Exp Car insurance & tax		
	Parts	Exp Car parts		
	Service	Exp Car servicing		
	House	Exp Household expenses		
	Council	Exp Council tax		
	Electric	Exp Electricity bill		
	Food	Exp Household food expenses		
			Profit:	0.00

accounts. You can have as many or as few categories as desired, but it's worth remembering that the more categories you have then the better your understanding of where your money is going.

Examples of income categories: Salary, Interest received, Share dividends, Income support, Gifts, etc.

Examples of expense categories: Food, Utility bills (gas, electric, water), Motoring costs, Mortgage, etc.

Subcategories are categories within other categories, and can be used where it's necessary to break down expense or income further. For example, you might wish to break down a household expenses category into: Repairs, Gas bill, Electricity bill, Water rates, Council tax, Household miscellaneous, etc.

The manual and help file don't explain how to do this so I'll go through it briefly. When creating a new category it can be classified as an expense, an income or a subcategory. High-

light the 'Type' dialog line and select 'Subcategory'. Tap on 'OK' and you'll be presented with a dialog entitled 'Select main category'. Press [Tab] (if necessary) to bring up the list of main categories, select the appropriate one and tap on 'OK'. The new subcategory will now appear in the list under its main category.

Transactions

Any financial event is called a 'Transaction'. This can be a transfer of money between two accounts, an item of expense (i.e. money moving from an account to an expense category) or an item of income (from an income category to an account). In all cases some amount of funds must always move from one place to another. This is what's meant by 'double-entry bookkeeping' and Money won't allow you to make a transaction without specifying a destination (or originating account or category). This is good financial practice and means money is much less likely to get 'lost'.

Book	Scheduled
Expense	
	-19308.20
Magazine	-1171.70
	-42100.62
	1.42

Create new category	
Brief name	test
Description	test
Type	Subcategory
Cancel Esc	

Select main category	
Type	Income
Cancel OK	

Money	Accounts	Categories	Book	Scheduled
09:50 Sat 6	Service	Exp Bill		
	Business	Exp Bu		
			Profit:	24257.64

*Creating a
subcategory*

Accounts	Accounts	Categories	Book	Scheduled
	Current	1234567	Current account	
New	Date	Other	Description	Amount
Edit	05/11	> Savings	Monthly transfer ... 5Nov	-100.00
Report	05/11	House:Gas bill	British Gas Tradi... 1774 *	-36.58
	05/11	House	A.Smith, window c... 1775 *	-11.00
	06/11	Income:Other	Sale or Psion Workabout *	75.00
	06/11	> Cash	Cash withdrawal *	-50.00
	06/11	Car:Service	Cleveland Fuel Tanks, t... *	-50.00
	06/11	House:Phone	NTL Teeside, pho... 1778 *	-113.32
	06/11	Car	Wasted cheque 1777 *	
11:48 Mon 8	Pending:-185.90		Reconciled:341.86	Worth: 155.96

A list of transactions, showing amounts, descriptions and categories

Scheduled transactions

Scheduled transactions (standing orders) can be used to take care of such things as loan repayments, direct debits, savings transfers, etc. on a daily, weekly or monthly interval. You can also use any variation of these, such as 3-monthly, bi-weekly, half-yearly, etc.

They can be entered from any account screen by specifying the transaction date sometime in the future, but these will be treated as one-offs, which will then be placed in the Scheduled list waiting for the due date. Where a scheduled transaction has been set up to cover a loan repayment an end date can be set, after which the scheduled transaction stops.

Splitting transactions

Splitting a transaction can be useful where goods paid for on one bill actually represent several different types of expenditure. Using 'splits' you can assign the individual items to the appropriate categories or subcategories.

Reconciliation

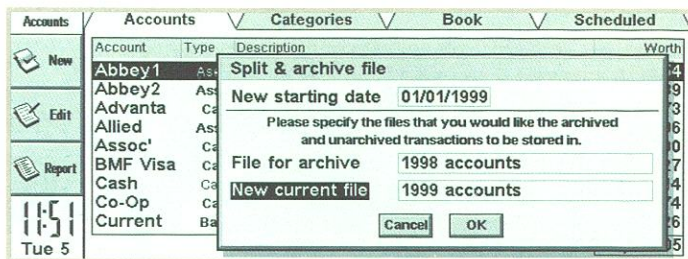
Normally a transaction isn't considered to have happened until it has been officially confirmed, usually by checking against a bank or credit card statement. This is called 'reconciliation'.

The reconciled balance calculated by Money is the one that should be compared against your statement. Transactions that haven't been reconciled are referred to as pending and are included within the pending balance, which is shown alongside the reconciled balance at the bottom of an account book. Pending transactions are identified by a '*' shown between the 'Description' and 'Amount' columns. The account balance at the bottom right of the screen is the sum of the pending and reconciled balances. All bank account and credit card transactions are pending by default—only cash transactions are normally reconciled by default. A transaction can also be deferred, which removes it from the immediate calculations of either pending or reconciled balances.

Split transactions—dividing a single bill into several elements

Money	Accounts	Categories	Book	Scheduled
	SPLIT			
New	Date	Other	Description	Amount
Edit	03/10	Cash	Groceries @ Morrison's	-56.24
Report		House:Goods	Household cleaning items	15.23
		Personal:Papers	Motorcycle News	1.50
		Car:Service	Engine oil	13.99
		Personal:Smellies	Toiletries	5.45
		House:Food	Food	20.07
09:42 Tue 5	Split balance:			0.00

Splitting and archiving a file for safe keeping



Splitting and archiving

Transactions entered over several years may start to impact upon the speed of Money - in such cases it would be a good idea to purge last year's transactions into a separate file. The best way of doing this is to 'Split and archive', as described in the manual. Once you've done this it's advisable to take some precautions to protect the archived file against accidental changes in future. Open the newly created archive file, go to 'Preferences', tap on the 'Limits' tab, and set the 'No changes allowed before' line to a date several years in the future. This will prevent any manual changes to the file and also prevent forgotten scheduled transactions from triggering. Another way to do this is to go to the 'Scheduled transaction' list, defer all of them, exit Money, and then go to the relevant files in the System screen to set their properties to 'Read only'.

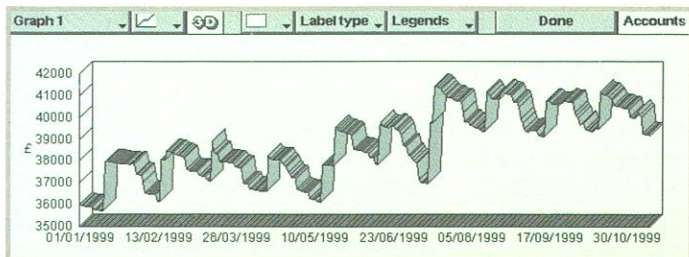
Reporting

There are a myriad of rather confusing report formats and options in Money. There isn't enough room here to go into all the possibilities, but the most common types you might encounter are the 'Transaction' and 'Net Worth' reports.

Each of the several types of report available can be viewed in graphical form and exported as text for use within Sheet or Word. They can also be modified to create custom reports, which can then be saved as 'Layouts' (a bit like Word templates) for subsequent re-use across a range of individual accounts, income/expense categories and scenarios.

Importing and exporting

Money can import from and export to both Quicken and Microsoft Money using industry standard 'QIF' (Quicken Interchange Format) files. These can only be used to describe normal transactions, so they don't contain



One of Money's many attractive graphing options, here showing net worth

information about standing orders, deferred transactions, preferences or accounts or categories. It's beyond the scope of this article to discuss importing/exporting issues in depth, but the manual and help files do provide useful information on this technique, which I've used successfully.

For upgraders, Palmtop Software have thoughtfully provided a function to import data from the best-selling Series 3 version. It works well and again the manual contains good instructions.

Foreign currency support

If you make purchases while travelling abroad or if you make them over the Internet then you'll probably find a use for Money's foreign currency support. Currencies are enabled by selecting the appropriate options within the preferences menu and once done it's possible to create multiple currencies or foreign currency accounts, and to make foreign transactions in any account.

When defining a foreign currency you might wish to check the latest exchange rates, which can be found at www.yahoo.com.

Unfortunately, Money's currency handling is not as well implemented as it should be, because all foreign transactions are automatically converted into the home currency (at whatever exchange rate you entered previously) once completed. This is a nuisance in those cases where you might want to keep them in their original currency or if you have an account in another country.

Remember that exchange rates vary on a day-to-day basis, so you may find that what you entered won't always agree with what's shown on your statement. In this case you'll need to update transactions manually to maintain accuracy.

More hints and tips

If speed is an issue, make sure you install both the Money application and its data files on the internal disk. This can speed up operation quite noticeably.

Sometimes it's useful to attach a short memo to a transaction. A memo might contain details about where an item was bought, the receipt number, etc. Money doesn't provide this function, but a workaround can be achieved by splitting the transaction as usual and then adding a zero value line with the required information in the description field. You should be able to enter about 40 characters per line on as many lines as you want.

When entering transactions there isn't a dedicated line for cheque numbering, but you can use the 'Reference' field. It only supports six digits, but it's usually enough.

Finally, if your Money data file is large and you are running out of disk space, consider performing a 'Save as' operation. This compresses the file (in much the same fashion as Agenda or Data). I managed to reduce a 600K data file to 440K using this technique.

Quality software

Money has the feel of quality. It doesn't have all the features of some shareware rivals, but it compensates by having a clean and professional interface, and being fast and very reliable. It's complex and powerful but also highly configurable, allowing you to simplify much of its interface and menus (by turning off advanced options in 'Preferences'). The toolbar can be swapped from right to left (or turned off altogether), the display can be zoomed over five levels, there's the usual keyboard or stylus dual support, and good use is made of tabbed dialogs and shortcut key combinations to aid quick navigation.

Java!

The final instalment of this three part guide dips into Java programming itself, with some help on how to get started...

by Andrew Giddings

This final part in the series looks at how to write Java programs on EPOC. It's aimed at those who know a little Java, although there won't be any fines for those who don't. It'll also make a few guesses as to the future of Java...

Programming in Java

The 'official' option is only for PC owners; the Java Software Development Kit (SDK) is available from Symbian (see www.epocworld.com) and contains all you need to write Java programs and package them up for easy installation on an EPOC device.

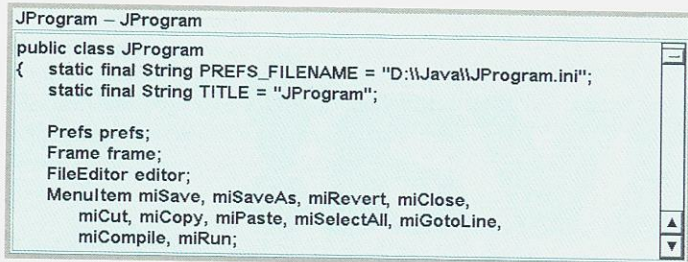
But what if you don't own a PC? Other platforms usually seem to get excluded from the most advanced programming options—but not this time. It's possible to write Java programs with nothing more than a trusty Series 5mx, MC218, Series 7/netBook or other EPOC machine supporting Java. It's not easy: it's slow, needs nearly 2MB of disk space on top of the standard Java installation, and takes work, but then if you wanted an easy life you'd be sitting in front of the TV instead of contemplating a new programming language...

Setting up

As mentioned last time, Symbian supply only the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) and not Sun's full Java Development Kit (JDK) containing the compiler and other tools. However, these tools are themselves written in Java, so copying the necessary classes from a full JDK will allow them to be run on EPOC. (Remember what I said in issue 25 about the benefit of a truly cross-platform language? This is exactly the sort of occasion when it comes in useful).

So, to write Java programs you'll need a full Sun JDK for another platform, such as Windows or Solaris. Any 1.1.x JDK from 1.1.4 up will do (remember that the EPOC version of Java is 1.1.4), they're freely available at java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.1. The latest, version 1.1.8, is probably the best one to use, although if you're hoping that this will give you a free upgrade to the full 1.1.8 on EPOC then you're out of luck, as some classes are built into the JVM and can't be replaced in this way.

The part of the JDK you need is the 'classes.zip' file, which contains all the supplied classes. If you open this up with a zip utility (e.g. WinZip or RMRZip) you'll see a large number



```
JProgram - JProgram
public class JProgram
{
    static final String PREFS_FILENAME = "D:\\Java\\JProgram.ini";
    static final String TITLE = "JProgram";

    Prefs prefs;
    Frame frame;
    FileEditor editor;
    MenuItem miSave, miSaveAs, miRevert, miClose,
    miCut, miCopy, miPaste, miSelectAll, miGotoLine,
    miCompile, miRun;
```

*Some sample
code as viewed
in my Java
editor...*

of '.class' files, arranged into folders according to the package hierarchy. As well as the system classes (in the 'java/' folder), you'll see some support classes (in the 'sun/' folder). These include the Java compiler, the Java archive tool (for creating '.jar' files), the debugger, Java documentation generator and all the other tools that come with the JDK. All of these will work on EPOC.

You'll also need some of the system classes, too. For efficiency the EPOC JVM 'pre-loads' many of them, so they're not present in the classes.zip file. The problem is that when the compiler checks up on the classes your program uses it can't see these pre-loaded classes, so we need to take copies of them too.

The files to copy are:

- ▶ java/awt/*.class
- ▶ java/io/*.class
- ▶ java/lang/*.class
- ▶ java/net/*.class
- ▶ java/security/*.class
- ▶ java/text/*.class
- ▶ java/util/*.class
- ▶ sun/tools/asm/*.class
- ▶ sun/tools/java/*.class
- ▶ sun/tools/javac/*.class
- ▶ sun/tools/javac/resources/javac.properties
- ▶ sun/tools/tree/*.class

Once you have all the necessary classes, it's best to store them in a zip file. You have two options: the first is to add them to EPOC's own classes.zip file (in '\System\Java\lib\'), the second (probably safer) is to put them in a separate zip file, rename it to have a '.jar' extension and put it into a '\System\Java\ext' folder).

It's probably easier to do all this on a desktop machine. It's also important to preserve both the exact folder structure the files were originally in and the exact case (upper/lower) of the filenames.

If all this sounds too much like hard work, you'll be pleased to know that someone else has done it all for you. John Davies has merged the classes.zip file from Sun's JDK 1.1.8 into the EPOC one, and the result has been posted at www.davies.lu/java. It's a 2MB download, about four times the size of the original.

Running the compiler

Sun's tools are designed to be run from a command line, such as the PC DOS Prompt or a Unix shell. EPOC doesn't have one built-in, but there's eshell, supplied with the Java SDK (also available at www.epocworld.com/downloads/progs/e-shell.html). From eshell you can invoke the JVM directly with the 'java' command. The class to run to start the compiler is 'sun.tools.javac.Main' and it takes one argu-

...and even
more Java code

```
JProgram - Util
public class Util
{
    public static void invalidateTree(Component c)
    {
        c.invalidate();
        if (c instanceof Container)
        {
            Component[] cs = ((Container) c).getComponents();
            for (int i = 0; i < cs.length; ++i)
                invalidateTree(cs[i]);
        }
    }
}
```

ment, the name of the file to compile. If you've created 'C:\MyProg.java', you therefore type:

```
java sun.tools.javac.Main C:\MyProg.java
```

and it will chug away for a while, compiling your program. Or (more likely) coming up with a page full of error messages! Remember that in order to see the console output you'll need to create a file, of any type, called '\System\Java\console'.

Another option is to use a 'wrapper', a tiny Java application which pops up a file selector and then calls the compiler. There's one on Frank Bodman's web site at www.hasiland.com/javaonepoc. Alternatively, a minimal version is given in the box at the bottom of this page.

Writing programs

The Java compiler works on plain text files. You can create these using the Word or Program applications, using the 'Export as text file...' menu command, but it's easier to

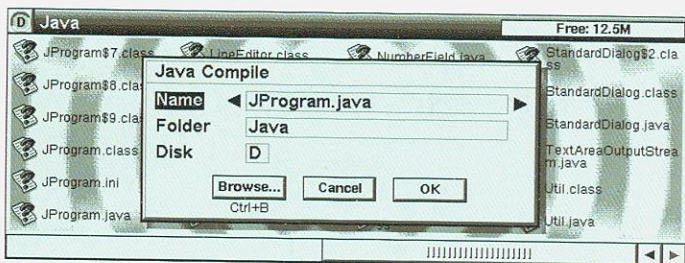
Create your own Java wrapper...

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.io.*;

public class Javac
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        FileDialog fd = new FileDialog(new Frame(""),
            "Java Compile", FileDialog.LOAD);
        fd.show();

        String file = fd.getFile();
        if (file != null)
            sun.tools.javac.Main.main(new String[] {file});

        System.exit(0);
    }
}
```

Running the minimal compiler wrapper listed on the previous page

use a plain-text editor such as RMRTText. I've also found Andy Clarkson's OPL+ application useful for this: as well as using plain text files, it can keep track of whole projects and has some advanced editing features. Make sure you name each file after the class defined in it, with a '.java' extension.

Another option is of course an editor written in the Java language itself. There are a couple available (MiniEdit and JE5) but I've found them too big and too slow to be useful. I'm currently working on a editor of my own for writing, compiling and running on EPOC, but it'll be a while before it's ready. The screen shot on page 62 shows it in action. If

you want to be kept informed as to progress, please email me at gidds@cix.co.uk.

Once you've written and compiled your masterpiece, the next stage is to package it up for easy installation. This is where the PC-based Java SDK comes into its own, as it can package up all the classes into a single '.sis' file, which installs your program neatly onto the Extras bar. Unfortunately, there's no way to do this directly using just EPOC, although the new nSisUtil utility from Neuron (www.neuron.com) may be a partial solution.

Hello, world!

It's a tradition that your first program in any language should simply print "Hello, world!" Here's the Java version:

```
public class HelloWorld
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        System.out.println("Hello, world!");
    }
}
```

If you can enter, compile and run that, well done! You've entered the wonderful world of Java programming.

Errors—some genuine Java compiler output!

```
Prefs.java:29: Class Sting not found in return.
    {
      return objpath;
    }
Prefs.java:29: Incompatible type for return. Can't convert Sting to java.lang.String.
    {
      return objpath;
    }
Prefs.java:33: Class Sting not found in return.
    {
      return currentFile;
    }
Prefs.java:33: Incompatible type for return. Can't convert Sting to java.lang.String.
    {
      return currentFile;
    }
Prefs.java:46: Class Sting not found in -.
    this.currentFile = currentFile;
Prefs.java:46: Incompatible type for =. Can't convert java.lang.String to Sting.
    this.currentFile = currentFile;
15 errors
Console closed - press any key
```

The future

Things are still moving fast in the Java world. Sun have been extremely busy improving the standard class library and defining Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for all sort of things, including TV, speech, email, telephony and cryptography. They have also defined three different 'levels' of the Java 2 platform: the Standard Edition is the new name for the existing platform, aimed at desktop machines; the Micro Edition has fewer of the standard class libraries, and is designed for consumer products such as pagers, smartphones and set-top boxes, and the Enterprise Edition is for company-wide applications, adding in many more APIs such as servlets (for use in web servers), messaging and transaction services and CORBA (the object request broker architecture).

With the Symbian-Sun alliance, we can certainly expect further improvements to Java on EPOC, although it's difficult to predict exactly what will become available. An update

to a later 1.1.x version seems quite likely, hopefully all the way up to 1.1.8. Support for the full Java 2 Standard Edition is also possible, although that's a much larger platform and some parts (such as the Swing GUI toolkit) may be too slow or memory-hungry to work well on EPOC. A just-in-time (JIT) compiler would help, as this would compile Java bytecode into native machine code as it's run and would deliver a huge speed increase, almost up to the speed of native EPOC applications.

In the longer term, Java looks set to become the most popular programming language, used almost everywhere. Most large companies are already using it in some form or another, and many large software packages are written largely or entirely in it (although this may not be immediately obvious).

Another Java technology in development, Jini, could also bring benefits to EPOC users. It's designed to connect to devices such as printers, disk drives, pagers, modems, network

JProgram - Class browser

```
public final synchronized class java.lang.String extends java.lang.Object Done
implements java.io.Serializable
C'tors:
    public java.lang.String();
    public java.lang.String(java.lang.String);
    public java.lang.String(char[]);
    public java.lang.String(char[], int, int);
    public char[] toCharArray();
Methods:
    public native java.lang.String intern();
    # From java.lang.Object
    public final native java.lang.Class getClass();
```

Class browser, A useful program that shows lots of information on any available class

For further information

- ▶ All the latest information on Java generally, documentation, tutorials and the latest JDKs for download are at Sun's own web site, java.sun.com.
- ▶ Symbian's EPOC World web site (www.epocworld.com) contains lots of EPOC-specific information. The Java SDK is available for download upon registering as a developer (which is now free).
- ▶ The most commonly recommended reference book on Java (1.1) programming is O'Reilly's 'Java in a Nutshell'. This is cheap but packs a huge amount of useful information into a small space. C or C++ programmers may find this is all they need to get going with Java.
- ▶ 'The Java Class Libraries' is the other commonly recommended book, a two volume tome published by Addison-Wesley.
- ▶ Bruce Eckel has written an excellent book, 'Thinking in Java', available online or for free download at www.eckelobjects.com/javabook.html
- ▶ The Java Review Service (www.jars.com) has reviews of and links to thousands of useful applets and applications.
- ▶ Other useful web sites are JavaWorld magazine (www.javaworld.com), The Java Centre (www.java.co.uk), the Java Programmer's SourceBook (codeguru.developer.com/java) and the Java Programmers FAQ file (www.afu.com/intro.html).

adaptors and the like, without the need for operating-system-specific drivers or rebooting. Devices 'advertise' the services they provide and applications will adapt to what's available—everything will be compatible with everything else.

Mobile agents, programs which can move from machine to machine, are another possible growth area. Instead of shuffling huge amounts of data around the Internet, agents will be able to move to where the data is, do whatever processing is needed and then bring the results back to you (e.g. searching out the best price for some product or service). Agents may be able to intelligently filter information, search databases, distribute information to interested parties or even negotiate with other agents, forming a whole confederation of cooperating agents. This sort of thing is only feasible due to the portability and security of Java. The technology for mobile agents is here already and although this scenario may be a long time coming, it'll be an exciting prospect if it does.

In short, Java will probably play a big part in future developments in computing, something EPOC users are well placed to join in!

Looking through the Spectrum

If you enjoy 'arcade' style games then you may be a little disappointed with the relatively small selection available for EPOC machines. If you'd like to add 5000 classic titles to that list then read on...

by Jody Armstrong

As a big fan of the original Sinclair Spectrum almost 20 years ago, when Palmtop Software released their first 'Spectrum Emulator' for EPOC, I relished the thought of running all those old favourite games once again. The Sinclair Spectrum was a range of basic home computers which plugged into the back of domestic television sets. It grew to be very popular in the UK and Europe, spawning thousands of commercial and amateur third-party games.

The latest version (3.1) of the Spectrum Emulator runs at full speed on the Series 5mx, regardless of which game you play. On the Series 5 'Classic' it runs a little more slowly, but on the whole you won't notice much difference from the gameplay of the originals. Plus, of course, the speed of the emulator can be adjusted as needed. But more on that later.

The emulator is a free download from the Palmtop Software web site. Once installed, you'll need something to run on it, of course. Without any Spectrum ROMs (the files containing the original programs) you'll only

see the basic Spectrum screen, which doesn't help very much, unless you happen to remember Spectrum BASIC.

Where to go

So where can you get games from? By far the best place is an archive called 'The World of Spectrum', featuring not only every 'Speccie' program ever released but also a multitude of information and documentation, plus emulators for other computer platforms.

Loading your first game

Once you've downloaded a program or game, here's how to get it running:

1. Unzip it (if necessary) and store it somewhere sensible on your palmtop (e.g. in a \Games folder). Spectrum programs come in several different types: '.sna' – snapshot files (very common), '.tap' – tape images (very common), '.z80' – an older file format (not used very much), '.pok' – poke files, only used for cheating(!) and '.scr' – screen shot files.

Game gallery

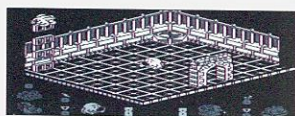
With a back catalogue of over 5000 Spectrum games, there's a lot to choose from. Here's a guide to some of the best.

Head Over Heels - debated as one of the greatest Spectrum games of all, an isometric platform/adventure game. You object is to unite the two characters, so that they can join together and, if memory serves me right, escape from wherever it was they were. Featuring good graphics and a very challenging series of puzzles.



100% (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, bright)

Starquake
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:11
Wed 29



100% (128K Ram, 18 frames/second, bright)

Starquake
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:13
Wed 29

Starquake - boasts over 200 screens of arcade blasting and exploration. You play B.L.O.B., who has to save the universe by rebuilding his crashed spaceship and nipping off to stop something from going nova. You do this by locating pieces of your Stardrive, scattered throughout the game's screens. Starquake's use of self-created platforms (amongst other neat little touches) identifies this as one of the most original platform games ever.

Jet Set Willy and Manic Miner - possibly the most famous Spectrum games of all, these feature our hero in either a sprawling, multi-screen platform game (Jet Set Willy) or on a single screen, level-progression version (Manic Miner). Addictive, and their simple graphics make them easy to see on EPOC machines.



100% (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, bright)

Jet Set Willy
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:14
Wed 29

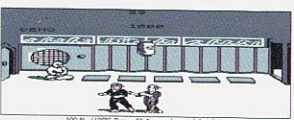


100% (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, bright)

Manic Miner
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:15
Wed 29

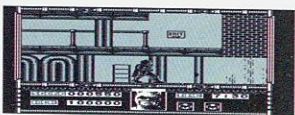
Target Renegade - a multi-level, scrolling, person-to-person combat game of immense character and great playability. Featuring a variety of moves and all the usual brain-crunching you would expect from this sort of arcade action game.

Batman - a movie tie-in, this is a great platform/driving/puzzle game which sees you as the superhero Batman—swinging, punching and jumping your way to victory against the evil Joker. Noteworthy for its excellent graphics.



100% (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, bright)

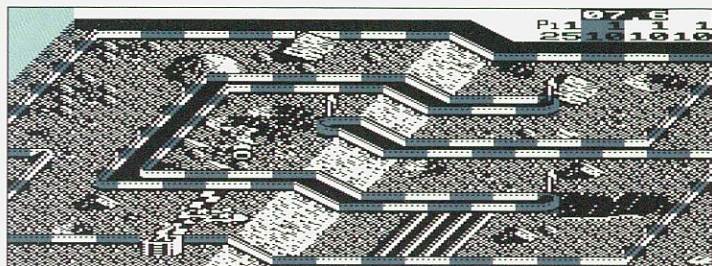
Batman
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:16
Wed 29



100% (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, bright)

Target Renegade
Open
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:17
Wed 29

Way of the Exploding Fist - the original 'Street Fighter' style game that allows you to kick in a never-ending stream of enemies while becoming a better student of the deadly martial arts. Featuring loads of authentic martial art moves—a great little game.



020 % (128K Ram, 50 frames/second, 16 greys)

ironm128
Open...
Colours
Slower
Faster
PAUSE
15:24
Wed 29

3D Stunt Car Racer - still one of the best racing games around, Stunt Car Racer lets you drive your Hot Rod car around the most daring and frightening tracks, including the Ski Jump where, after climbing for some time, you have to take a death drop. This game runs extremely well on the 5mx, although screen update rates rather hamper it on the pre-mx Series 5.

Ivan "Ironman" Stewarts' Super Off-Road Racer - despite the odd title, this is an entertaining driving game. You race a little 4x4 truck around the tracks, collecting money and building up your truck as you go.

Laser Squad - a turn-based wargame, based on the movements of your small squad of troops. There are seven scenarios on the 128K version of the game and it can be played with either one or two players. Each scenario is different and can feature retaking an installation, assassinating an enemy or rescuing comrades. The game is menu-driven with movement being controlled with the up/down/left/right arrow keys.

The Encyclopedia of War/Ancient Battles - a very detailed and tactically rewarding, turn-based wargame in which you can pit the best of the ancient races/empires against each other. See the Romans go against the Egyptians—very rewarding, but tricky to get to grips with.

Chaos/Lords of Chaos - from the creator of Laser Squad, 'Chaos' is a chess-style board game in which you control a wizard competing against up to seven other wizards. In each round you get to cast spells (from your collection) and move your creations around.

Elite - this immortal space flight/trading game is one of the few games which is totally open-ended, no completion of the game can ever be achieved other than your own satisfaction and enjoyment. It's a classic which, while tricky when emulated on the Psion, is not impossible.

Starglider - a space flight combat game, noteworthy for its excellent vector graphics and smooth scrolling. Not the best emulator game as it's hard to see what's going on, but worth a look.

2. Once you've installed it, start the Spectrum Emulator by tapping on the Z80 icon from the Extras bar. You should now be looking at the '1982' copyright screen.
3. Use the 'Open file' command and select the game file from step 1.
4. Wait a few seconds. If you selected a '.tap' file, press [J] followed by two speech-marks [""] and then press [Enter] to load the game. If you chose a '.z80' or '.sna' file it should load automatically.

Emulation in depth

Now that you have your first game loaded, let's run through a few things you'll need to know. On the 'CPU' menu card are 'Slower' and 'Faster', as well as the important 'Reset' button. When you slow down or speed up the emulator you are also usually altering the frame-rate. Experiment with these commands until you arrive at a speed you're comfortable with for that particular game. You'll unfortunately need to change the speed settings every time you reset the emulator or load a different game.

On the 'Settings' menu card, 'Joystick' selects how the arrow keys on the EPOC unit are mapped to a virtual Spectrum joystick. I'd recommend mapping the fire button to the [Tab] key and turning off the 'Map space key...' option. It's also worth turning off 'Map pen to joystick' as this won't work quickly enough for most games.

'Sound' is simple enough to handle—just leave it switched off all the time. It will only slow the emulator down and the Spectrum had awful sound anyway. 'Display' alters the size of the screen: generally the 'Large' option works fine, but things will be faster on 'Normal', albeit a little harder to see.

The 'Colour' option cycles through '4 colour', '4 colour bright', '16-greys', and then 'inverted' versions of all of the above. Experiment until you work out the most comfortable setting for your own use.

Each game has its own interface and menus, so when you load up a game (and before you play) see if it will support the emulated Kempston joystick interface—virtually all games do. If not, use the quoted keys for control.

And finally

This should give you a starting point from which to get comfortable with the emulator and start dipping into the vast quantity of available games. You may also want to check out *Epocalypse*, the free EPOC gaming newsletter with a regular Spectrum column.

Availability / references

Palmtop BV Spectrum Emulator
www.palmtop.nl

The World of Spectrum
www.void.demon.nl/spectrum.html

Epocalypse
www.pdacentral.com/mailers

Email

in depth

EPOC's built-in email software is both powerful and flexible. In this series we look at how to get the most from some of its less obvious features

by Pete Sipple

Email is fast becoming *the* communication medium. It's faster than regular post, cheaper than phone calls and more portable than fax. Email growth over the past two years has been amazing, especially (in the UK, at least) with the introduction of such deals as free email services and free-call ISP (Internet Service Provider) dial-up numbers. 10 years ago, maybe one in a hundred people had an email address—today, most computer users have email access, with many people having more than one address. With infrared modems now common in GSM mobile phones, getting access to emails no longer means being tied to a desktop computer, and even if you don't own such a device PsiWin's email synchronisation helps to bridge the gap between desktop and hand-held. Getting the most out of EPOC's email software is now more important than ever before.

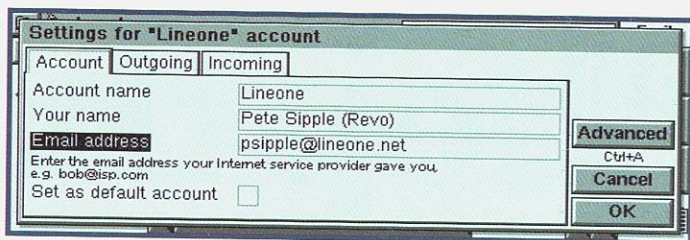
Multiple accounts

Banks, supermarkets, newspapers and retailers are jostling for position with the big name ISPs, which is good news for us as services improve and prices fall. The days of paying for Internet access are numbered and the door is wide open to have multiple accounts:

as well as a work and home email addresses, you might want a separate address for urgent emails, accounts for family use, or maybe an account to quote when you think you're likely to attract junk email.

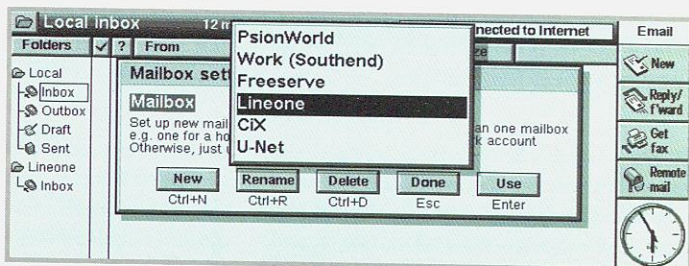
EPOC fully supports multiple email accounts, although setting them up is slightly different depending on which palmtop you own. When entering settings and information, you may find it helpful to refer back to our series on connecting to the Internet in issues 17 to 20.

- ▶ On the Series 5 'Classic' (with the latest Message Suite installed), tap the 'New' button on the 'Tools | Settings | Mailboxes' dialog and enter the settings supplied by your ISP. Once you have entered the settings, tap on 'Use' to make the new account 'active'. Only one account can be in use at a time.
- ▶ Email v2.0 on the 5mx/Revo/Series 7, netBook, etc. makes it even easier as there is an 'Add new account' command on the 'Tools' menu card. You can select one account to be your default, and that will normally be the one that handles your outgoing mail. Switching to other mailboxes is done via either the toolbar 'Open mailbox' button or the equivalent command on the 'Transfer' menu card.



Creating a new email account on a Revo

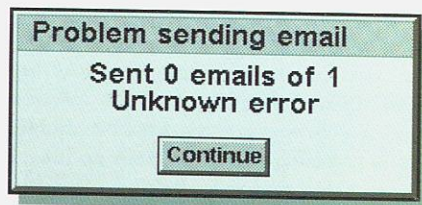
Multiple email accounts on a Series 5



Again showing Psion's changing attitude to email on the move, the newer version of Email allows you to have more than one mailbox open when you're online, while the original Series 5 required you to close one mailbox, select the second account you want to access (via the 'Tools' menu), then tap on the 'Use' button.

When connected to the Internet, bear in mind that most ISPs require you to connect directly to them to send mail using their outgoing mail server, although reading your mail can be done via other ISP connections. They do this, incidentally, to avoid 'spammers' using their mail server to send out unsolicited advertisements. In other words, it's usually best to have a 'master' account, using a particular ISP, which is used to connect to the Internet and also for sending mail. While connected, it's easy to open up other remote mailboxes and download waiting messages. If you try to send email using an outgoing mail server for an ISP other than the one you dialled in on, you'll usually be caught out and presented with the

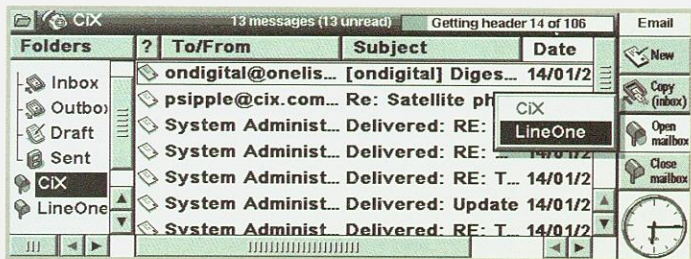
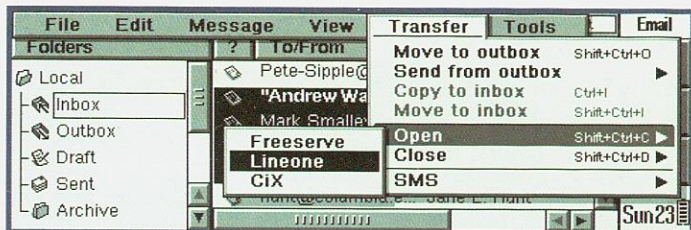
rather vague message 'Problem sending email – Unknown error'.



Informative error messages when sending to the wrong connection

With v2.0 of Email, you can select which account you use to send a particular email if (for any reason) you don't want to use the default one. This is especially useful if you would prefer a recipient to reply to a message from a different address, although bear in mind the caveats above. To select which account sends your mail, select 'Send message via account' from the 'Tools' menu card when composing your message.

Selecting from a list of mailboxes



Downloading from two accounts

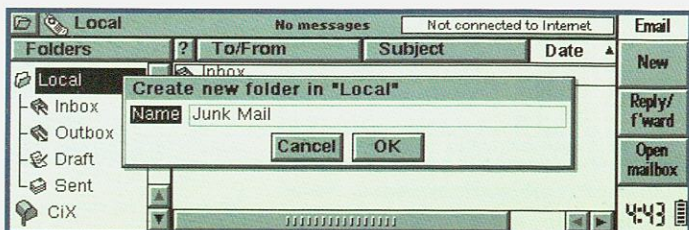
Managing your messages

Introduced with ER5 and the Series 5mx was the ability to create additional folders for your messages. Having separate ones for 'Home' and 'Work' emails may prove useful, as can creating a place to archive important messages:

1. Ensure that you can see both your folders and your message list. On the 'View' menu card, the 'Show list of folders' option should be ticked (this is the default view for Email).
2. Highlight the 'Inbox' folder (for example) in the folder list.

3. Use the 'File | Create new folder' command and enter a name. The new folder will appear under the original, as you'll see if you tap it a couple of times.
4. Again with the original folder highlighted, and with your emails showing in the main window, select which messages you'd like to move to your new folder by holding down the [Ctrl] key and tapping on the individual messages.
5. With a desktop email package, you'd expect to be able to drag these selected messages into your new folder, but the way to do it under EPOC is to 'Cut' the messages using [Ctrl]+[X], tap on the destination

Creating a new folder



folder and then 'Paste' the messages across with [Ctrl]+[V].

Keeping your emails in separate folders can also help you keep your Inbox neater (and more efficient), but if you synchronise your email with a desktop machine, remember

that only the Inbox, Outbox, Draft and Sent folders are supported.

In the next part of this feature, we'll look at email synchronisation in more detail.

Fault finding

When things go wrong with your online connection, getting to the bottom of the problem can be fraught. It's not always easy to know why something isn't working. A little-known feature exists within EPOC to create a log of online activity. From the root folder on the System screen, create a folder called 'Logs'. Go into that folder and create another folder for your requirements below. Note that not all of the following options work on some versions of EPOC.

- ▶ To generate a dial-up connection log create C:\Logs\NetDial
- ▶ To generate an email log create C:\Logs\Email
- ▶ To generate an email file converter log create C:\Logs\Mailtext
- ▶ To generate a fax log create C:\Logs\Fax
- ▶ To generate a synchronisation log create C:\Logs\Synchro

The standard text files created in these new folders can be invaluable in tracing problems with your email session. Note that without occasional deletion, these files can grow to be quite large. If you forget about them, you might find yourself running short of space.

You can find some other online tips at Jochen Siegenthaler's web site. Common error messages are explained here, and useful information is given on getting things working again. See homepages.ihug.co.nz/~jochens.



An activity log displayed with Web

The **Acorn** connection

John Woodthorpe looks at how to connect your Psion to a RISC OS computer



Given that this is an update of the articles in *Palmtop* issues 11 and 18, I should explain why I won't be mentioning 'Acorn' as much as you might expect. This is because Acorn as a company no longer exists. It was bought by an investment bank, mostly for their shares in ARM Holdings, which Acorn had a key role in creating. Sadly those shares were more valuable than Acorn itself. The various Acorn businesses were then sold off and the costs of the whole deal paid for by selling some of the ARM shares.

Incidentally, I hope Psion were watching this. Not just because they use ARM processors in their own computers, but in case they eventually fall prey to the same thing. One of the few ways to effectively buy a share in Symbian is to buy up part or all of one of the consortium members, and Psion have the largest part of Symbian.

As far as Acorns go, Castle Technology now have the rights to the Acorn name and continue to manufacture, sell and support them, and RISCOS Ltd develop and sell the RISC OS operating system. Other companies also produce RISC OS computers, including

Microdigital with their Mico and RiscStation with their machine of the same name. RISC OS itself has recently been upgraded to version 4, which adds extra features including support for longer filenames, larger hard drives (with less wasted space) and a general speed increase. I recently installed this in my Risc PC and have been very pleased with the results. In particular, it now makes the filenames and directory structure used by RISC OS directly compatible with the way EPOC organises its files.

Despite the end of the arrangement whereby Psion palmtops were rebadged for Acorn's Pocket Book range, they continue to be the handheld computer of choice for RISC OS users. There are even tantalising reports that things are coming full circle and that Psion have agreed in principle for RISCOS Ltd to provide a version of RISC OS on CompactFlash to run on the netBook later this year.

Series 3

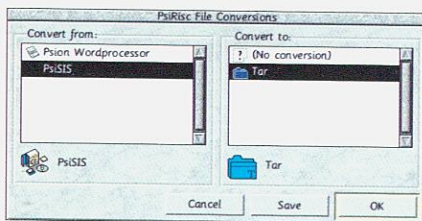
These two platforms are now in complete harmony. The old PocketFS was originally limited to the Series 3 and Series 3a machines with their 'soap on a rope' link cable. That

has now been patched by Gareth Babb to work with the 3c and 3mx, giving file transfers and conversions at the full speed of the palmtop. The only snag is that you need to own a copy of the original PocketFS (which is still under copyright) in order to apply the patch. Installation instructions and the patch itself can be found on the ArmLink site (www.armlink.ndirect.co.uk).

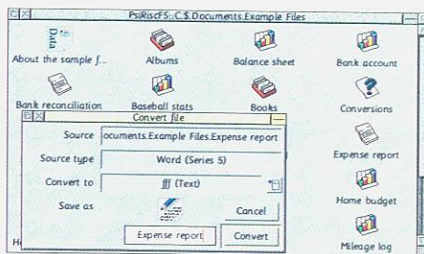
PsiRisc and PsiFS will also transfer files and PsiRisc will do some file conversions. Mind you, I've seen some files become corrupted in the process, so it isn't entirely satisfactory. ArcLink5 simply does not talk to the Series 3 range of machines.

EPOC

There are three relevant file transfer applications for the EPOC user: PsiRisc, ArcLink5 and PsiFS. PsiRisc comes from Interconnex, creators of the vector drawing package Draw5. I've not had any updates to it since February 1999 and some people have had difficulties with support. Although it has been rather surpassed over the past year, it does have some very good features, not least the ability to unpack a SIS installation file under RISC OS and to look at its contents. It was the first such application to appear for RISC OS and it also had the first comprehensive backup and restore facility.



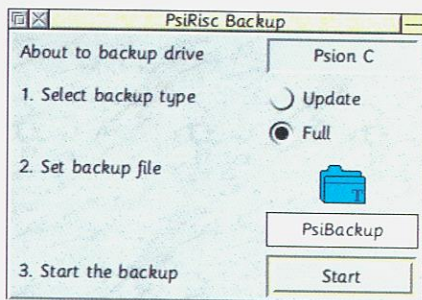
Configuring PsiRisc's limited range of conversions



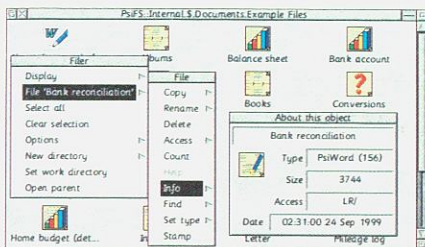
Converting a Word file to text with PsiRisc

ArcLink5 has also not been updated for several months, and despite its quirky operation (it doesn't use the Psion Link protocol at all) it is by far the fastest way to move files between the two platforms. I've done some timing tests and it is breathtakingly fast when compared to anything else (including PsiWin), getting very close to the theoretical maximum speed of the serial port. After a backup, note that John Boyce's freeware JB5StopGo utility has a facility to start up the extra file ArcLink5 needs to have running on the palmtop in order to work.

PsiFS is the most recent entry into the EPOC arena and has progressed by leaps and bounds. Written by Alexander Thoukydides and released as freeware, it is a superb combination of a file transfer application and a printer mirror. This last is unique amongst the three applications, allowing the palmtop



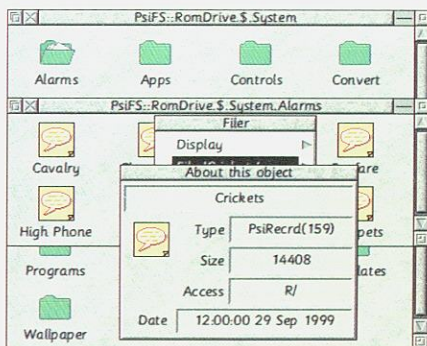
PsiRisc was the first to offer a backup utility



The PsiFS directory display

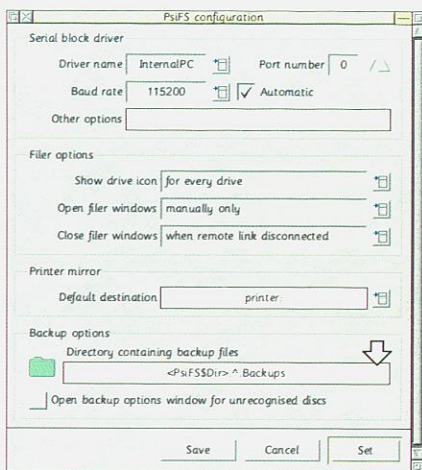
to print through a RISC OS machine to an attached printer in a similar way to PsiWin on a PC. In my experience it is also the most robust of the transfer applications and is the one I use almost exclusively.

Under PsiFS, if you want to examine the Psion's ROM, you simply access it like any other remote drive. Files can then be loaded into a binary file editor regardless of whether they are on the 'remote' or 'local' machine.



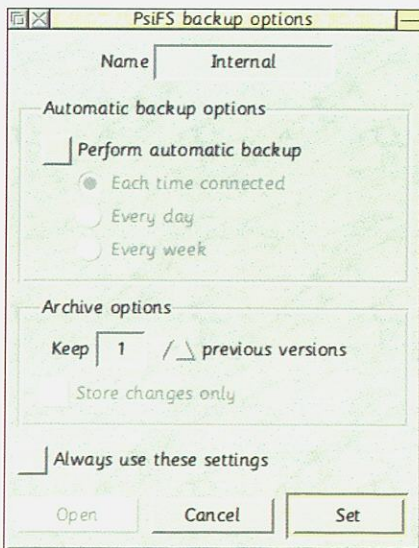
Accessing an alarm file from the Revo's ROM

That's certainly something PsiWin can't do, and just for fun I've been able to copy the Revo's stunningly loud 'Crickets' alarm sound to my Series 5mx. More seriously, it also allows the ROM files to be searched for specific strings. That's often especially helpful in learning some of the palmtop's innermost secrets.

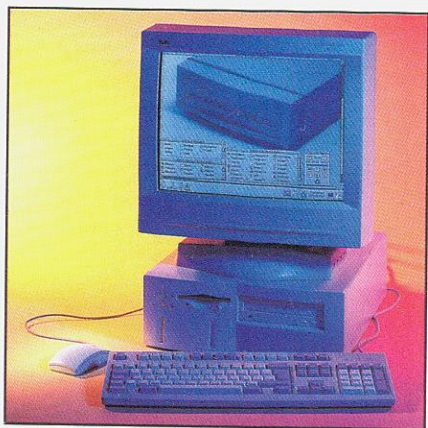


Configuring the backup operation in PsiFS

The latest pre-release versions also have a backup facility that, like PsiRisc, saves the palmtop's contents in a TAR archive, preserving the long filenames even on older versions of RISC OS.



The 'PsiWin-like' backup settings in PsiFS



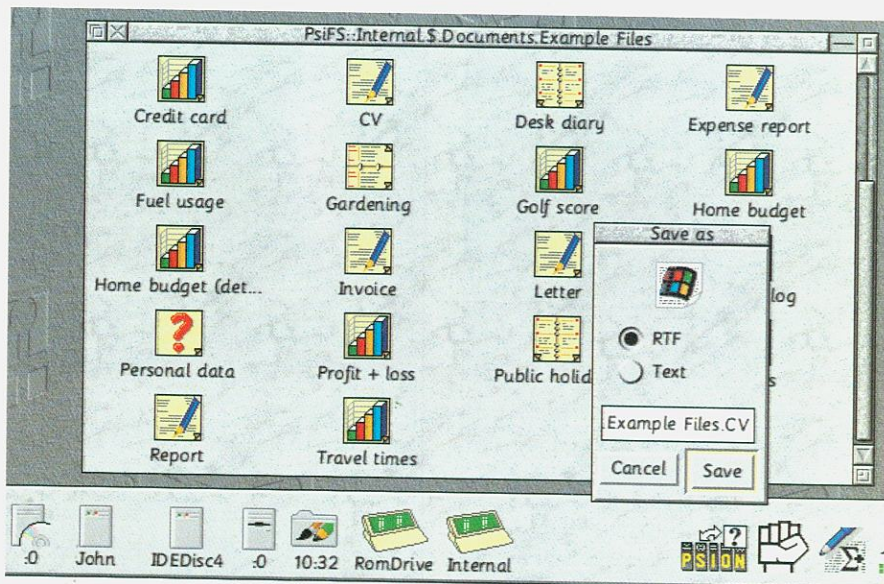
It's not often that the best application for a particular task is also the only free one, and it's even more unusual that it's also the best-supported. That's the case here however, and whether you have a Series 3 or Series 5-class palmtop there's no reason not to have a copy of PsiFS.

If you want to know more about the Psion Link protocol by the way, the PsiFS web site has a great deal of detail for anyone programming in this area on any platform.

File conversion

The file transfer applications are unfortunately of limited use when it comes to converting files, and they generally don't do anything that the Series 5 can't do itself. This means that RISC OS users are forced to convert files manually before transfer, such that Word is saved as plain text and loses its formatting in the process, Data files are saved as comma delimited text, but Sheet and Agenda cannot be turned into any other form. Until we have a reliable set of import and export filters for EPOC, users will be forever tied to Windows for file conversions.

There is some hope however, as Frodo Looijard has published some of the EPOC



Working with PsiFS to convert a Word file to RTF

Curriculum Vitae

Profile:
Summary of your skills and experience

Personal details:

Name:	Firstname LASTNAME
Address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Date of birth:	
Marital status:	
Nationality:	

Career:

Month 19xx - present	Company name Company address Next line of address	Job title Description of duties
Month 19xx - Month 19xx	Company name Company address Next line of address	Job title Description of duties

Education:

Month 19xx - Month 19xx	School name School address Next line of address	Subjects studied: List of subjects
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The CV demo file converted to RTF and loaded into Tech Writer

file formats on his PsiConv web page at huizen.dds.nl/~frodoll/psiconv and some of this information has been used by Gert-Jan de Vos in a RISC OS application called ChangePSI. This currently converts Sketch or MBM files ('EPOC pictures') into RISC OS Sprites and Word files to plain text or RTF (the industry standard Rich Text Format). It will work with PsiRisc or PsiFS, and you can drag a supported file from the palmtop or from a backup to the ChangePSI icon, whereupon a standard RISC OS 'Save as' box pops up allowing you to choose the file format and name.

Other conversions planned include Word to Impression's DDF format (for import into Impression or TechWriter Professional), RTF to Word, and Sprite to Sketch or MBM.

As you'll see from the converted CV file shown above (from the examples provided with the Revo), it does a pretty good job. Embedded

Availability

- ▶ **PocketFS** may still be available from some dealers, but is most likely to be obtainable second-hand.
- ▶ **PsiRisc** is available from: Interconnex UK Ltd, Box Bush Farm, West Wick, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 7TF. Tel and Fax (01934) 522 880, email: sales@interconnex.co.uk. It costs £44.99 including VAT.
- ▶ **PsiionFS** should be available from the Interconnex web site at www.interconnex.co.uk. It is shareware, costing £15 to register.
- ▶ **Arclink5** is shareware, costing £29.95 to register. Until registered, the transfer speed is limited and the application times out after thirty days. It can be obtained from Paul Vigay's site at www.vigay.com/Psion and has a mailing list for further discussion.
- ▶ **PsiFS** is free and can be obtained from Alexander Thoukydides' web site at www.btinternet.com/~thouky/software/psifs. There's a mailing list for discussion, where beta versions (such as the one reviewed here) are announced. There's also a copy of the latest public release version on the Armlink web site (www.armlink.ndirect.co.uk).
- ▶ **ChangePSI** is free and can be found at www.mountside.nl/people/gertjan/changepsi.
- ▶ The demo of **RiscSync** is available from www.popidea.co.uk.



files are not converted at the moment and the formatting of bulleted text sometimes goes awry, but it's otherwise looking extremely good. It's an absolute boon to anyone who roughs out work on their palmtop before transferring it to RISC OS for final editing.

Other formats

Aside from the simple Word-to-text conversions that PsiRisc performs, the only other file conversion application is Interconnex's PsionFS. This converts Sketch and MBM files to RISC OS Sprites and has been my mainstay ever since the Series 5 appeared. Sadly, it no longer seems to be available, but the free ChangePSI will do a very similar job. It isn't quite as convenient but still works well.

Data files have to be handled manually by using CSV import and export. RISC OS 4 comes with several bundled applications, including a superb diary application called Organiser. This will accept CSV files and can take exported information from Data if you're willing to spend the time making all the fields match up.

The two big gaps are Sheet and Agenda. Neither application has any import or export facilities and so there are no options at present. It is possible to 'Print' Sheet files to the general text printer driver and extract the contents that way, but it's very unsatisfactory. One small glimmer of hope for Agenda in the future is RiscSync, which implements a desktop diary that mimics Agenda very closely under RISC OS. It will also synchronise with the Psion via PsiRisc or PsiFS and allow you to read and edit a version of your palmtop diary. It's still in beta testing at the moment, and is much happier working with PsiRisc than with PsiFS, but it does work after a fashion. It should really be treated as more of a demonstration than a serious appli-

cation at this stage, especially as it only works from EPOC to RISC OS and saving is disabled.

Windows solutions

There are times to give in and use Windows, although happily this happens far less often now than ever before. A RISC OS user can now install applications, transfer files, backup and restore the palmtop, and even convert a few files without having to turn to PsiWin. I have an Intel 586 (Pentium) second processor in my Risc PC that lets me run Windows 95 (and hence PsiWin) and I use that for some file conversions and the occasional 'belt and braces' backup. PsiWin has always worked well for me until it got to v2.3, which refuses to backup or install applications. Other RISC OS users have observed the same problem and Aleph One, who produce the application that allows Windows to run on RISC OS machines, are looking into the problem. Meanwhile, I've gone back to PsiWin v2.2.

RISC OS contacts

RISC OS computers start at around £500 and are manufactured by the following companies:

- ▶ Castle Technology Ltd, tel: 01728 723200

sales@castle.org.uk
www.castle.org.uk

- ▶ RiscStation Ltd, tel: 01942 797777

info@riscstation.co.uk
www.riscstation.co.uk

- ▶ Microdigital, tel: 01274 618774

sales@microdigital.co.uk
www.microdigital.co.uk

THREE

for all

Stuart Gray examines more highlights from the Series 3 world

So the Series 3mx has officially been withdrawn, to make way for the Revo as the new 'mini' organiser in Psion's range. Remaindered stocks have apparently *flown* out of the warehouses, with one supplier reporting that 300 units were sold to one individual as soon as the news broke.

The demise of the '3' came as no real shock, since support from Psion has been patchy to say the least over the past few months, but the fact that the Psion web site still gives the impression that the 3mx is a current product is somewhat annoying. Nonetheless, there are plenty of shareware applications still available, and there are some developers who haven't forsaken the 3 series yet.

Taking stock

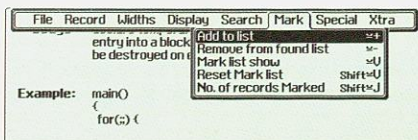
It is customary at the turn of a year to do some kind of review of the times past, particularly now as we move into the new Millennium. With this in mind, I thought I'd take a look at the best Series 3 programs of the past thousand years (!)

A fundamental problem when discussing 'the best software' is one of categorising the vast array of applications available. Do you split them up by payment method (freeware, share-

ware or commercial); by whether they replace a built-in application, improve functionality, or bring something completely new; whether the software is aimed at the older 3a or the newer 3c/3mx; or whether it is a utility or game? I started by trying to include the 'best' of each type of program, before giving up in the face of the vast options available. Instead, I present a purely personal opinion, representing the software which has improved my own Psion use in some way—I offer no apologies if I have mentioned some of them before, or if I missed one of *your* favourites.

The freeware factory

No collection of Series 3 software can avoid mentioning John Boyce at some point. One of the most prolific writers of third party applications for the SIBO machines (and now for EPOC also), John brought many innovations to the Series 3a, most notably *JBData*. Users who have known only the 3c or 3mx Data application may not appreciate the revolution that was *JBData*, but imagine if you will a world with no list view, and no ability to sort



a database. JBDData added both these features, indeed some say it was this that caused the change from Psion.

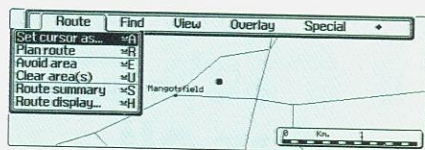
As well as advanced search capabilities, in which respect it still scores over the Psion version, advanced display options, the ability to add individual records to a list—and so it goes on. If you rely on databases for anything more than a simple address book, look carefully at this product. Take a look at John's other software on his web site, as he has a utility to cover most situations, and even better, they are all free! Not to be missed.

On the move

A great advantage of Psion palmtops is their extreme portability, so what better use for a mobile computer than route planning and mapping? As I mentioned in issue 25, the best way of finding an efficient route from A to B (and possibly via D and E while avoiding C) is using *Route Planner* (formerly *En Route*) from Palmtop software. This will find the shortest, quickest or favourite route between two places, and provide junction-by-junction instructions, with GPS support.



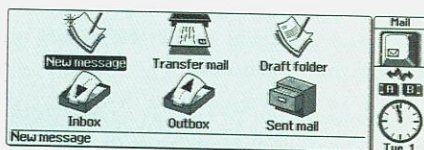
While travelling, you may want to locate the nearest Little Chef, airport or museum—this can be done with our own Steve Litchfield's *Mapper*. Mapper is a complete Graphical Information System (GIS), which means that it shows all the roads in Britain (or Ireland, or France, depending on the version used), along with various traveller's information, all of which is searchable. So if you want to



know the nearest tourist attraction to your current position, Mapper is the one.

Serious business

Of course, most people use their Series 3 for productive work—be it note taking and assignment planning for students, or running a small business—and naturally the portability and usability make it a possible alternative to a laptop. Some programs which have proved to be very useful for this are:



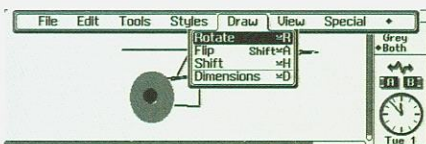
PsiMail Internet: although a bit long in the tooth now and sadly lacking the ability to show frames on web pages or handle more than one email account, PMI is a remarkable piece of software, and the only real solution to Internet connectivity.



Plain Paper Invoicing: I discussed this in issue 25, but it is certainly a handy application. It allows invoices, quotations, delivery notes, indeed all the paperwork involved with business transactions, to be created and printed on the Psion, which certainly impresses non-user clients...

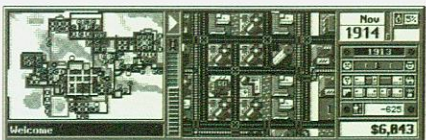


And to keep track of the clients themselves, Symantec's *Act!* or the equivalent *Contact Edge* (freeware) and *Business Suite* (shareware) aim to bring together the functionality of Data, Word and Agenda. Client names and addresses are stored, and this information is merged automatically into letters. Contact activities (letters sent, phone calls made) are recorded and can be scheduled with alarms. Meetings can be recorded in Agenda as part of your diary. As a bonus, *Act!* will synchronise with the desktop version.



Picture perfect

Something which Psion left out of the Series 3 (presumably due to the lack of a pointing device) was a drawing package. Happily, several authors have rectified this. *Draw* is perhaps the best, combining simple shapes with complex fill patterns, rotation and text. Files are saved in Psion PIC format, but this can be converted using *FirePic*, which will save files as PCX format. Although graphics on a Series 3 are a little limited, they are possible, and if you need that kind of output (on screen or in print) it's comforting to know it's there.



Playtime

All work and no play, as the saying goes, makes Jack a dull boy. I'm not sure about Jack, but I don't get a great deal of time to play games. When I do, if it isn't the built-in *Patience* I'm usually found puzzling over *Metropolis*, possibly the most ambitious game for the Series 3 to date. Following the same idea as *SimCity*, you have to manage the growth of a town from village to metropolis, balancing the needs of the citizens against the budget. Great fun, which runs in the background while you get on with some *real* work.

Hopefully, the Series 3 scene will continue to thrive as long as there are people who wish to use these remarkable little machines.

Availability

Most of the shareware can be found on *Palmtop* CDs.

Details on *Act!* can be found at www.symantec.com.

Plain Paper Invoicing is available from LaserSoft, Unit 7, Mabgate Mill, Leeds LS9 7DZ, tel: 01937 583002.

John Boyce's web site is on www.compulink.co.uk/~jbsoft

COMPETITION

FIVE copies of Palmtop Software's Route Planner Millennium to be WON!

- 1.** If you were to buy and install all the TrueTerm dictionaries, what's the maximum disk space they'd take up?
- 2.** Which Series 3 program can calculate your level of fitness with a couple of taps on the keyboard?
- 3.** What law has meant that Psion have been unable to make their EPOC Web browser secure?

Just answer the three questions above and send your answers on a postcard to Palmtop Publications, PO Box 188, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 0GP, ENGLAND.

We can only accept entries by postcard, and all postcards must be clearly labelled **COMPETITION 27R**. Any entries received by means other than postcard will be discarded. Please include your prize choice and a contact telephone number on your postcard. Anyone posting multiple entries will be disqualified.

All entries must reach us by 10th March 2000, and the winner will be notified within one week. The decision of Palmtop Publications is final.

**Competition sponsored by Expansys Ltd.
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Working for a Living: The Sportsperson

Steve Litchfield explores a range of software to help you enjoy the sporting world

For perhaps the first time in this series, the 'Working' part of the title is going to be rather misleading. Unless you happen to be a full-time sportsperson, these activities will probably be just spare time activities or hobbies. But of course your life can still be hugely enriched by them, especially with the help of extra software on your palmtop.

Keeping track

Perhaps the biggest single use for a handheld computer in the sports world is as a portable record keeper. From food nutrients, calories and first aid to past winners and record holders, the built-in Data application is excellent as a general purpose repository. Word will do nicely for long rulebook documents

(should a dispute arise) or perhaps for keeping a sporting journal. Agenda will remind you of upcoming events and schedules in its imitable fashion, especially for tournaments and competitions planned months or even years in advance.

The real sporting power of your Psion lies in Sheet, however:

- ▶ Logging personal times, scores and averages, general short and long-term statistics.
- ▶ Keeping track of diet, weight and fitness, perhaps plotting progress against a plan.
- ▶ Recording match results throughout a season and calculation of league tables.
- ▶ Custom scoring sheets for golf, darts, ten pin bowling and other mathematically-oriented sports.

Use your built-in spreadsheet to create custom scorecards, logs and more...

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application on a Psion device. The menu bar at the top includes options like Arial, 10 pt, Bold, Italic, Underline, and various icons for text alignment, bullet points, and formulas. The formula bar shows the formula `=MIN(E5:E40)` in cell E2. The spreadsheet grid has columns labeled A through H and rows numbered 1 through 8. The data is organized into a scorecard for a darts match between Steve and Bill. Steve's scores are 501, 501, and 418. Bill's scores are 418, 501, and 83. The word 'Throw' is used as a header for the scores. A thick vertical black bar is positioned between columns D and E.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Player:	Steve			Bill			
2	Needs:	501			418			
3								
4		Throw	Score		Score	Throw		
5			501		501			
6					418	83		
7								
8								

No. 1 13	Total 28	No. 2 10	Pscore Board Batting Bowling  Mon 29
Last Wkt	Wkts	Overs 4.5	
Last Man	1st Inns		
Current Over: . 13 . . 4			

28 for no
wickets
—a good
start for
Pscore

Templates and specific examples of the ideas above can be found on the PocketInfo web site, www.pocketinfo.org. You may also find it helpful to review several of the articles in our 'Advanced spreadsheet techniques' series, especially the construction of a darts scoreboard in issue 22, which may give you good ideas for constructing your own scoresheets.

Just for you

Part or full-time involvement in sport is so common these days that it comes as no surprise to discover quite a few purpose-built third party applications. Pscore on the Series 3

(and Siena) is a good example, mimicking a standard cricket scoreboard and accepting input via a series of optimised and intuitive keystrokes. Designed for club cricket but applicable to other levels, it can also print out match statistics in recognised cricket formats.

Taking a slightly longer term view, Cricket Statistics on the Series 5 allows you to track the performance of a cricket team by inputting details from the paper scorebook at the end of each game. The program uses this information to calculate and present batting and bowling statistics for each player.

Entering a cricket scorecard...

Venue: Woodley			Woodley Wanderers vs Bolton		Date: 1999/01/28	
Result: Win						
PLAYER	HOW OUT	RUNS	PLAYER	O	M	R W
Steve Litchfield	Bowled	7	D.C.Scoggs	10	0	34 2
D.C.Scoggs	Caught	45	Fred Smith	10	0	23 4
Fred Smith	LBW	1	Steve Litchfield	12	3	23 4
V Cox	LBW	42				
Figgins Smith	Stumped	75				
Darren Gough		34*				
Joe Bloggs		2*				
James Allen						
Dave Kite						
Bishen Bedi						
COMMENTS: Tight finish! ***						

File	Games	Players	Help	N	O	Runs	High	50	100	Ave
D.C.Scoggs 75 75 1 0 75.00 V Cox 45 45 0 0 45.00 Ian Botham 42 42 0 0 42.00 Steve Litchfield 34 34 0 0 34.00 Darren Gough 7 7 0 0 7.00 Fred Smith 2 2 0 0 2.00 1 1 0 0 1.00										

View batsmen
 View bowlers
 Recalculate stats Ctrl+C

...and
reviewing the
season so far
in Cricket
Statistics"

Save on paper
and pencils
with Golf
Assistant

A: Steve										1 C: Dave										1 Medal									
B: Rob										3 D:										0 A+B: 10 C+D: 0									
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Out	Tot	Net						
Par	4	5	5	3	3	3	4	3	4	34	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	3	5	38	34	72	CAL						
Strk																													
PlyA	4	4	5	4						17											17	17	16						
ResA	3	3	4	3						13											13	13							
PlyB	3	5	5	2						15											15	15	12						
ResB	2	4	4	1						11											11	11							
PlyC	4	5	5	3						17											17	17	16						
ResC	3	4	4	2						13											13	13							
PlyD																													
ResD																													

Buy a Psion, play golf

Golf Kaddie 99 is distance tracking software for the Series 3 specifically designed to be used on a golf course. By using a plug-in sensor placed on the wheel of your golf buggy it is able to measure the distance travelled and calculate yardages to upcoming obstacles. It also keeps track of your score and progress against par, with a database of previously-played golf courses.

Available as freeware for both Series 3 and EPOC is Golf Assistant, which displays a graphical representation of a score card for up to four players. Strokes and par ratings are entered for each hole as encountered and there is full support for saving scores and course details.

Along similar lines but with much more long term analytical depth is GolfCard & Analyst, for EPOC. All scorecards can be saved and analysed later in hole-by-hole detail, and there's a special Revo-friendly version. Golf-Caddy5 is another electronic (EPOC) golf

scorecard system, with similar functions to the programs above.

Splitting time

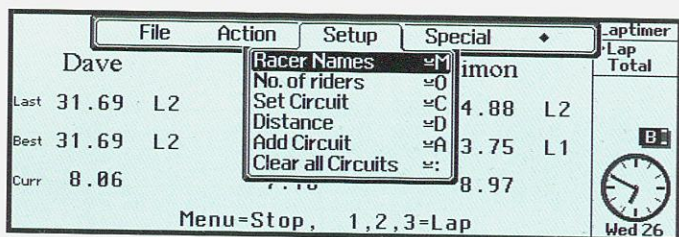
Laptimer is a stopwatch program for the Series 3 with a distinct racing theme. It stores and displays up to 99 lap times for three riders/drivers simultaneously, with timing triggered by pressing the [1], [2] and [3] keys. For closely spaced contestants, you need only hit the spacebar as each passes, entering their order afterwards. There are a variety of reporting options to plain text format.

One of the more visually polished EPOC programs, Stopwatch will perform simple lap timing, with a display of total and lap times, plus the 'best so far' and a list of the last 20 individual laps.

Biklog is a program for cyclists who like to keep track of their rides on either Series 3 or EPOC. It is not intended to be used during the ride as a cycle computer, but as an exten-

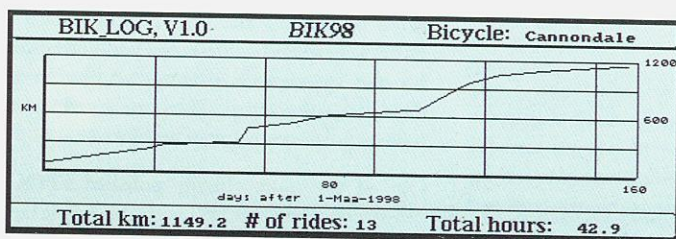
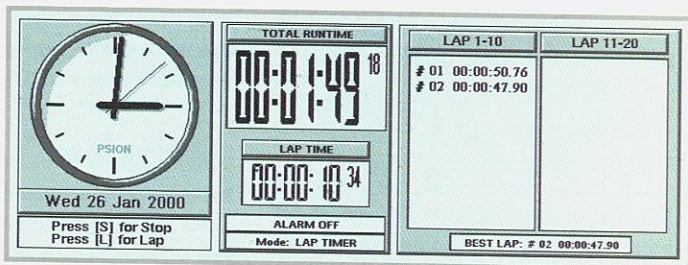
SANDY WOOD @ FWAY - 1/17/1994 on										GOLFCARD INDEX										Analyst												
Eagles	0	0.0%											145.2										Stats Back Back to Menu Help 									
Birdies	3	0.6%																														
Pars	63	13.6%																														
Bogeys	174	37.7%																														
D Bogeys	122	26.4%																														
No Ret	48	10.4%																														
Other	52	11.3%																														
	462																															
			Stroke Index																													
			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9																													
			Actual 16 8 12 6 4 14 2 10 18																													
			SW 13 14 9 11 5 18 1 3 17																													
			10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18																													
			Actual 13 1 5 9 3 15 7 17 11																													
			SW 7 2 8 12 4 15 6 16 10																													

Full analysis of
your game in
GolfCard &
Analyst



Keeping track of 3 riders in Series 3 Laptimer

Stopwatch showing lap times



Biklog running on the Series 3

sion of it to store the cycle computer data and as a tool to analyse long-term progress graphically. Common statistics produced include number of rides, average distances and duration for each bicycle and ride type in the database, total distance ridden per month and bicycle type, plus longest, shortest, fastest and slowest rides.

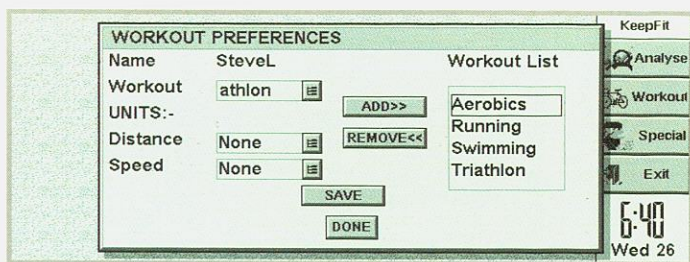
Fit as a fiddle

Fit4Life, on Siena and Series 3, offers simple pulse rate analysis. By tapping the space bar a few times in time with your pulse both straight after exercise and a few minutes later, the program is able to determine your rate

of recovery and therefore how fit you are (or aren't). Various information on heart rates and fitness safety is also included.

Keeping EPOC owners in shape is KeepFit, which maintains and analyses your workout data, including jogging, running, aerobics, etc. You get to specify the fitness tests that you would like to take, then receive reports on general fitness, Body Percent Fat, Heart Status, Flexibility and Muscular strength. A 'Perfect Shape' function even analyses your vital statistics!

How fit do you feel?—KeepFit



When rain stops play

Of course, weather or injury can conspire to foil the best laid sporting plans, but your palmtop is then even more useful. Quite apart from the opportunities to catch up on correspondence or write your sporting autobiography(!), there are a number of sports-related

games for both Series 3 and EPOC that will help keep your interest. Perhaps the two most obvious are Psi Soccer Manager (reviewed in issue 21) and my own Fairway (or 'Series 5 Golf', reviewed in issue 15), but the games scene for both palmtops is extremely active and I'm sure you'll find something to while away the wait. Fore!

Availability

Pscore - shareware, £15 to register, by Brian Fowler

Cricket Statistics - shareware, £10 to register, by Chris Matthee

Golf Kaddie 99 - shareware, \$25 to register, by Inline

Golf Assistant - freeware, by Keith Ross-Jones

GolfCard & Analyst - shareware, £50 to register, by M-P (Golf) Systems

GolfCaddy5 - shareware, £5 to register, by Mian Gardner

Laptimer - shareware, £5 to register, by Roger Ford

Stopwatch - freeware, by Dirk C Roennau

Biklog - freeware, by Jaap Lameris

Fit4Life - freeware, by Steve Litchfield

KeepFit - shareware, \$10 to register, by Information Technologies (India) Ltd (www.palmix.itil.com)

Psi Soccer Manager - (www.artamedia.com) demo available, £35 to buy, by Artamedia

Fairway - shareware, £12 to register, by Steve Litchfield

Series 5 Golf - commercial, on Psion's Games Arcade (may need the 5mx patch on 3lib.ukonline.co.uk)

Most of the above are on Palmtop CDs. Many are also available on the Internet via their author's web page.

WIN

STOP

WIN

1. Who prevents supernovas?
2. Which language rhymes with 'Scruple'?
3. What is Psion's stock exchange code?

**WIN a copy of
Palmtop Software's
new in-car GPS unit,
complete with a copy
of their Street Planner
software to go with it!**

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All entries must reach us by 10th March 2000, and the winner will be notified within one week. The decision of Palmtop Publications is final.

Last issue's 80MB CF winner:
Mr H de Kogel, Amsterdam,
THE NETHERLANDS

Correct answers were:
1. Both are the same
2. Collins Cobuild Dictionary
3. RCOM



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A beginners' guide to PROGRAMMING your PSION

The final part of our easy introduction to programming

by Leigh Edwards

Let's continue with the subject of loops, perhaps the single most powerful concept in programming and certainly the one that computers are best equipped to perform. Last time we looked at using `DO...UNTIL` and `WHILE...ENDWH` to implement simple loops—now let's see how to control them in real-world (i.e. complex) programs.

Loops within loops

It is possible, and indeed quite common, to have one loop inside another. You can have up to eight `DO...UNTIL`, `WHILE...ENDWH` and/or `IF...ENDIF` structures 'nested' within each other before the OPL translator finally gives up, displaying a 'Too complex' error message. Although badly formatted source code won't bother the translator, it will help you to understand and debug your own code if you indent the lines in each loop or structure them according to the degree of nesting, as demonstrated throughout these articles.

Jumping out of loops

Occasionally, when certain conditions are met within a loop, you might wish to quit it completely. The `BREAK` command will drop out of the current `DO...UNTIL` or `WHILE...ENDWH` loop. The line immediately after the `UNTIL` or `ENDWH` statement is then executed, and so on. For example:

```
DO
... REM do some stuff here
IF a% = c% REM test condition here
    BREAK REM jump to after the UNTIL line
ENDIF
... REM otherwise carry on here
```



```
UNTIL a% = b%
x% = 3 REM (... or whatever) BREAK will drop out to here
```

Jumping back to the start

The `CONTINUE` keyword jumps from the middle of a loop to its test condition, i.e. the `UNTIL` line of a `DO...UNTIL` loop or the `WHILE` line of a `WHILE...ENDWH` loop.

For example:

```
WHILE a% < b% REM CONTINUE comes back here
... REM do some stuff here
IF a% = c% REM test condition here
    CONTINUE REM jump back up to the WHILE test
ENDIF
... REM otherwise carry on here
ENDWH
```

Infinite loops

Occasionally you may require OPL to loop round forever, with all program action taking place (or being called from) within the loop, for example when the user presses particular keys. Or perhaps you have a whole set of conditions you wish to test for, which would be cumbersome to test together on an `UNTIL` or `WHILE` line.

In both cases, a so-called infinite loop is used. As you may have gathered from inferences so far, zero and non-zero are also convenient logical values meaning 'False' and 'True' respectively. So `UNTIL 0` and `WHILE 1` both mean 'do forever', since the condition 0 is never 'True' and the condition 1 is always 'True'. Use these when you need to check a more meaningful condition (or set of conditions) somewhere in the middle of the loop. Here are two examples of using infinite loops:

```
PROC loopy1:
WHILE 1 REM Infinite loop
... REM some other lines here
IF INKEY%=OPT1%
    openfile:
ELSEIF INKEY%=OPT2%
    closefile:
ELSEIF TIMER>9999 REM Just some examples
    expired:
ENDIF
... REM some other lines here
ENDWH
ENDP
```

and

```
PROC loopy2:
WHILE 1
    ... REM some other lines here
    IF KEY :BREAK :ENDIF
    ... REM some other lines here
ENDWH
x%=3 REM execution continues here after the BREAK
ENDP
```

In the first example above, the main loop is never actually exited—procedures and functions are called from it and return to it, with the `WHILE` construct simply used to force the program to keep running and checking conditions. The second example uses the `KEY` keyword, returning zero if no key has been pressed. When a key *is* pressed, `KEY` returns a non-zero value, equivalent to 'True' and so the `BREAK` statement is executed, ending the loop.

As to when you should use the different types of loop, when you should use `BREAK` and `CONTINUE` (and even `GOTO`) and when you should use infinite loops, there are no hard and fast rules. My advice would simply be to keep your program 'flow' as simple, as logical and as well laid out as possible. A program full of 'spaghetti' code, with loops, conditions, procedures and jumps all liberally intermingled, is one that even you will have trouble understanding in a few weeks time. Well structured code (with relevant `REM` comments) can hopefully be read and understood by anyone, months or years after it was written.

A Dialog with the user

Used throughout Psion's own applications, these '3D-effect' choice boxes allow us to ask the user for information very quickly without having to write lots of code to record and handle what they type in. These boxes also 'float' over your application and get removed when the dialog is accepted (with [Enter] or tapping on 'OK', etc.) or cancelled (with [Esc] or tapping on 'Cancel').

The general procedure for making a dialog always follows the same pattern:

1. Initialise the dialog with `dINIT`, usually with a title.
2. Set up all lines (and questions) in the dialog (e.g. asking for choices or number values). Each line should use one of the special dialog keywords, starting with a lowercase "d".
3. Define some buttons if required (e.g. 'Cancel', 'OK', etc), with `dBUTTONS`.
4. Call up the `DIALOG`.
5. Handle the value returned if necessary and perform any actions required.

The syntax for different types of variable varies and there are lots of possible conditions (see the OPL manual for full details), but here are a few simple examples:


```
dTEXT "Car type", "Renault"
```

(Displaying two text strings, in columns)

```
dEDIT user$, "Name:"
```

(Prompts the user for some characters to go in user\$)

```
dFILE filen$, "Open file:", 16
```

(Displays a standard file selector, from which the user can pick a file, usually to open)

```
dCHOICE choice%, "Pick a fruit:", "Apples, Oranges, Pears"
```

(The user has to select from one of the choices presented)

```
dLONG number&, "Give me a number:", 1, 1000
```

(Asks for a long integer number, which has to be between 1 and 1000)

```
dBUTTONS "Cancel", 27, "OK", 13
```

(Puts up two buttons on screen, returning either the codes for [Esc] or [Enter])

Finally, using `DIALOG` presents the whole structure to the user. If `dBUTTONS` has been used, the dialog actually returns the code from that command. As long as the dialog was accepted and not cancelled, any values selected or chosen by the user will be allowed to stand. Here's a simple real world example of a dialog in action:

```
PROC choosy:
```

```
LOCAL LOTTERY&, NAME$ (30)
```

```
dINIT "Getting information the painless way!"
```

```
dLONG LOTTERY&, "Choose a value for your lottery bonus  
ball:", 1, 49
```

```
dEDIT NAME$, "And your name is?"
```

```
dBUTTONS "Cancel", 27, "OK", 13
```

```
IF DIALOG<>0
```

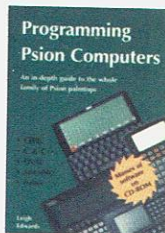
```
PRINT "Welcome, "; NAME$; ", your ball number is "; LOTTERY&
```

```
GET
```

```
ENDIF
```

```
ENDP
```

This completes our beginners guide to programming your Psion, although we would of course welcome feedback on topics you'd like to see covered in future issues. If you want to continue the learning process with some research of your own, there are plenty of good web sites with OPL programming material: start with 3lib.ukonline.co.uk/progindex.htm. If you prefer to stay with printed matter, there's also my own 'Programming Psion Computers', ISBN 0953066304, reviewed in issue 15.



Working with **Jotter**



Getting the most from your 'ideas and scribbings' application

by Pete Sipple

The ability to just switch on and type, without delay, is a key benefit of most palmtop computers. And when inspiration strikes, Jotter is perhaps the quickest way to get your thoughts down. It's small enough to stay open all the time and quickly accessible from your toolbar.

Appearing first on the Series 3c, Jotter was then missing from the Series 5, only to be back on the newer ER5 machines such as the 5mx and Revo. Because of its intermittent presence, users who've grown up with the Psion range may be missing out by not making maximum use of Jotter.

Jotter's brief is to take free-form notes and then make them quickly accessible. It's an odd program, in that any one of three other applications can do its job almost as well:

- ▶ You can use Word for note-taking, but with file naming, spell checker, text formatting and style sheets, it's a bit like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.
- ▶ Many of your jottings may be date-related, and therefore equally suited to Agenda's To-Do section.

- ▶ Data can be configured to do essentially what Jotter does, allowing you to enter text with a heading and then retrieve it quickly when required.

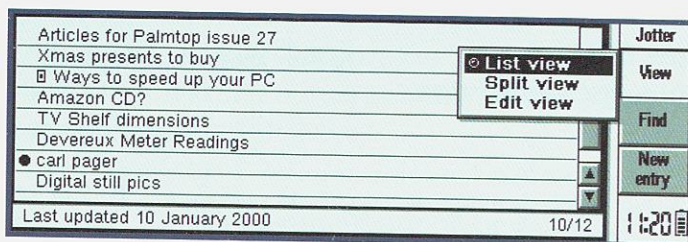
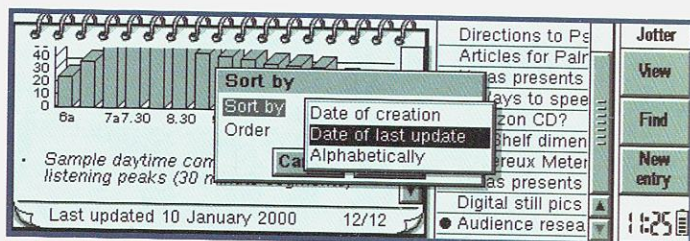
For years, my quick notes have tended to reside either in Word or Agenda, but recently I became a convert to Jotter, for two main reasons: it can stay open constantly with my last jotting in view, and it can easily keep a variety of miscellaneous information together.

This article has been written primarily with the EPOC user in mind. Although Jotter on the 3c/3mx is broadly similar to the version found on the new machines, it lacks a 'Split' view and text formatting options, as well as the ability to embed other objects.

Jotter files

The usual 'New', 'Open' and 'Save as' commands are available under the 'File' menu. You can create as many files as you like, although most users tend to have just one. You can have separate Jotter files for categories such as 'Work', 'Home' and 'Expenses', but the time taken to do 'File | Open' each time rather negates the speed of use. If you have

Sorting your Jotter entries on a Revo



The List view on a Revo

lots of jottings that you want to organise and categorise, you might find that a third-party jotter program (see the end of this article) gives you greater flexibility.

By default, the file 'Jotter' is created in your 'Documents' folder when you first use the application. Although I only *actively* use one Jotter file, I do make use of a second file, called 'Archive'. Many of my notes get discarded once they have been actioned (or the text pasted into another application), but some are worth keeping. Every now and then, I open my 'Archive' Jotter file and use 'Merge in' ([Shift]+[Ctrl]+[I]) to bring in my current jottings. After trimming out any unwanted material, the archive file then contains a host of snippets that don't clutter up my current working file.

Jottings

Adding a new jotting can be done using the 'New entry' toolbar button, by using [Ctrl]+[L] from the keyboard, or by just starting to type if you are already in the 'List'

view. You may find it useful to enable the 'Always start on a new entry' option in the 'Tools | Entry preferences...' dialog, which then presents you with a blank new entry every time you go into Jotter—regardless of which view you're in. Whether your machine is on or off, a simple press of the Jotter icon is then usually all you need to start a new note.

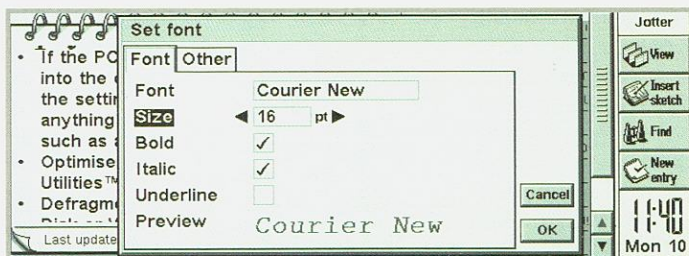
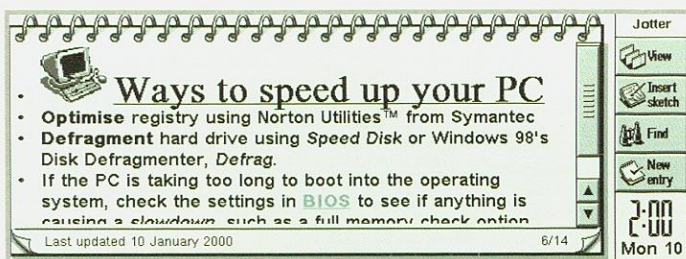
Finding and sorting

The easiest way to find snippets of text within a Jotter file is to use the 'Find' toolbar button, or [Ctrl]+[F]. All entries in the current file will be searched. You are then taken into 'Split' view, with all matching entries listed.

If you have a lot of entries, you may wish to sort them either alphabetically or by date. With the latter option, you can choose either the date that the entry was created or the date it was last edited.

Note that it is usually useful to include all of the text in the 'List' view and not just the first line. This can also be set via the 'Tools | Entry preferences...' dialog.

An entry making use of text attributes and an embedded graphic



Text attribute options—available in colour on the Series 7 and netBook

Formatting

If you wanted to turn your jottings into a graphical masterpiece, you'd probably be using Word from the outset. But formatting in Jotter is quite powerful nonetheless, allowing for the usual bold, underline and italic emphases, as well as superscript and subscript. Series 7/netBook users can even colour their text. Lists can be catered for, with bullets, and the 'Strikethrough' option accessible via 'Text | Font...' is useful for those wishing to cross out selected entries while leaving the text readable.

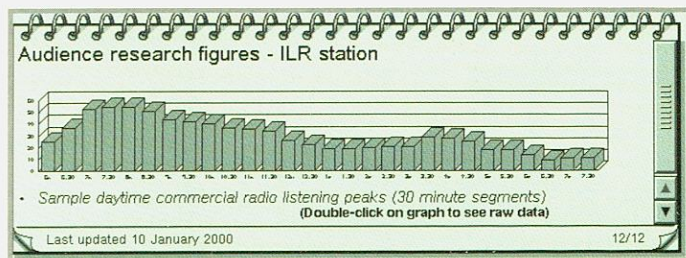
Inserting objects

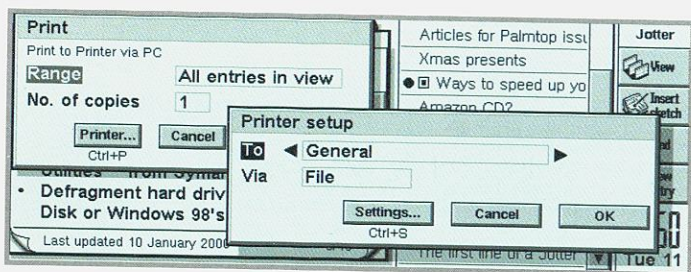
You can make your jottings even more powerful by embedding other objects into them. These may be a spreadsheets, a link to a map or scribbled note from Sketch or a sound recording. Only Word and Sheet objects can be embedded in the Revo version of Jotter: Record and Sketch were excluded.

Importing and exporting

In terms of import and export, Jotter isn't compatible with anything but itself. This is a pity, as many users rely on Jotter and

A Jotter entry with an embedded Sheet graph





Creating a text file

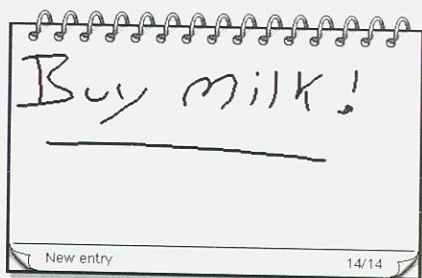
would welcome the ability to synchronise their jottings with a desktop PIM such as Microsoft Outlook, which has its own 'notes' function. As there is no 'Save as text' option, the only way to use your jottings elsewhere (apart from copying and pasting into other EPOC applications) is to create a printer text file. You can choose just one entry or all entries. Create such a file by selecting the 'General' printer from the 'Print' dialog, as shown. The resulting text file can then be transferred to a desktop computer and imported into other applications as required.

Fine-tuning

- ▶ Remember to set 'Wrap to screen' on from the 'View' menu—this helps to keep everything visible, especially in the 'Split' view.
- ▶ In the 'Split' view, the 'Tools | View preferences...' menu command becomes available, allowing you to position the list to the left or right of the screen. You can also choose whether the date shown underneath an entry shows as 'Last updated' or 'Created', although simply tapping on an

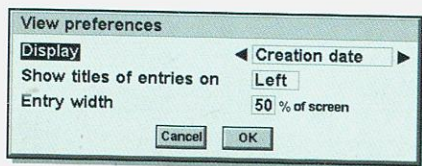
entry's date toggles between creation and updated dates anyway.

- ▶ Don't forget that if you've got the stylus in your hand, you can quickly scribble a note to yourself without a keyboard, by tapping the 'Insert sketch' toolbar button (though not on the Revo).



A quick reminder...

- ▶ If you make use of PsiWin's (v2.2 or higher) CopyAnywhere technology then remember that you can put PC text straight into Jotter simply by copying it to the Windows clipboard and then pasting from the Psion's clipboard as needed—a time-saver if you want to transfer unformatted chunks of text quickly.
- ▶ Finally, note that there's an upper limit on the amount of text that you can have in a Jotter entry. The limit is a little over 8100 characters (about the equivalent of three full pages of text in *Palmtop*), but if your notes are that long then you really should be using Word!

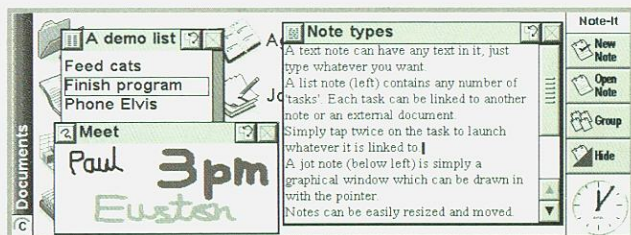
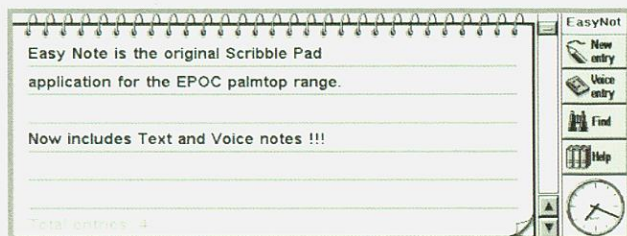


Setting your display options

Shareware Jotter alternatives

EPOC

EasyNote looks and feels similar to Jotter. Series 5 users without Jotter may wish to give this one a try. It also allows for voice notes to be taken.



Note-It, also from Palm-scape, is a much more advanced version of Jotter, allowing you to create groups of notes and lists that float over other applications. Get both programs from www.palmscape.com.

RMRNotes has such advanced features as priorities, categories and a filter option. It runs on all EPOC machines (it's shown here running on a Series 7/netBook) and supports multiple languages. RMRNotes is available directly from www.rmrsoft.com.



Series 3

Memopad is very similar to the 3c/3mx's Jotter. It allows you to search, print and lists notes as well as attached sounds. Worth trying if you own a Series 3a. Available from ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tristanbonsall/memo.htm.

QuikNote allows for attributes such as bold and italics. Filtering, archives, alarms and the option to make the program start automatically when you first switch on make this a good choice. www.gorilla-haven.org/pimlico/quiknote.htm.

On the NET

Our regular
look at what's
happening
online, and
where to point
your browser



by Pete Sipple

Revo resource

The Revo continues to be big news on the Internet. As well as creating lots of chatter in the newsgroups, Revo-specific web sites are beginning to spring up. Without doubt, the best place to visit for everything Revo is RevoWorld. This comprehensive site contains a news section, discussion groups and software download sections, as well as features including how to fax from a Revo (yes, it is possible, with Psion's rather ancient EasyFax).

www.revoworld.com

World-wide wander

A few issues back we mentioned Googol, the search engine for Psion sites. Googol has now expanded and has a news section, a weekly email letter and a bigger reference section. Well laid out, and certainly worth another look.

www.googol.net

A couple of issues ago, we reported on a site containing photos of the inner workings of a Series 5. If you'd like to see something similar for the Series 3, David MacKay's site contains lots of 'nude' shots of a Series 3a, plus detailed instructions on how to fix hinge problems with a paperclip and some tape. Not for the faint-hearted!

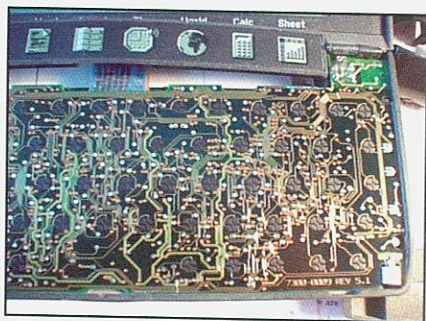
wol.ra.phy.cam.ac.uk/mackay/psion

On the subject of 'Do It Yourself', custom cables for Psion machines constantly seem to be in demand, for connecting to non-standard equipment (such as GPS receivers). For ready-made cables or pinouts and pictures of various connectors, some useful links can be found at:

www.pSIONleads.freemove.co.uk

Jochen's back! For the last couple of months, Jochen Siegenthaler's popular web site has been down, but it's now back with a new address, albeit temporarily restored from a slightly out-of-date backup. This site is of special interest to those of us who surf or collect mail on Psion machines, as it contains a host of tips, suggestions and ways of resolving connection problems on both Series 3 and EPOC machines.

homepages.ihug.co.nz/~jochens





An Epocplus.com site for the Psion Revo

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[Check out the latest FDA news](#)
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-  [Submissions](#)
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So you're a Revo fanatic?  <http://www.go32.com>

Please take a moment to [visit](#) our EPOC sponsor!

Revoworld News

Last update 12 January 2000 12:39:10

Item Posted 12/1/2000

 **New discussions area now online!**

We've been busy. As part of our new year additions to Revoworld we're pleased to announce the launch of the online discussion forum. You can add your own topics and messages. Many more features to come!!! [Check it out now!](#)

 **Thank you for your submissions, updates coming!**

We'd like to thank everyone who has used the submissions page or emailed us directly with news, views, comment and questions. We are sifting through the hundreds of emails, and readying the site for more upgrades including the new software news pages. Please bear with us!

Item Posted 6/1/2000

 **We made it!**

In brief

Phew! We're still here!
 Glad to see we're all still here and our Revos haven't died a sudden death during the new year celebrations. We hope you all had a great time and are getting used to writing 00 or 2000!!

Got a Revo, want to talk about it? [contact us](#), and let us know what you like/dislike about it!

Haven't got a Revo? It's not the end of the world so cheer up. If you have another EPOC device and want some cool shareware and freeware check out [Pocketshareware](#) and [Pocketfreeware](#) now!

Teatime?

Much talk is being made of the Revo's keyboard...

"I was just messing about with my Revo when I noticed that there was a hair from our cat partially under the [Enter] key. As I went to remove it with the stylus (as you do) I pushed a bit too hard and noticed the grey surround to the keyboard was made of a rubber-like material. I had assumed it was the same as the keys. Does this mean it is there to cushion the keys when they are pressed?" (gbowen@offline.free-online.co.uk)

"One thing that supports your rubber theory is that the Revo is quite remarkably tea-resistant. Yes. Only six days after buying it I go and spill a fresh cup of Earl Grey all over the keyboard..." (charles.kooy@tesco.net)

"I knocked some vending machine Earl Grey on my Psion 5 after owning it for only 2 weeks. I stuck it in the airing cupboard overnight then popped off the key tops and wiped all the gunk out. It's worked fine ever since." (the.bomb@virgin.net)

As it turned out, the millennium bug was less of a problem than many predicted. Psions seemed to roll over quite happily with nothing odd Y2K-related being reported online. One message did catch my eye though. With just over an hour remaining 'til the end of the century—this message appeared...

"How can I enter the date '1st January 10000' in Sheet? Have a Happy New Year!" (gmorgan@online.no)

...apparently programmers are now working on a fix for the 'Y10K' problem!

Hints & Tips

**Every item published in this section wins the author
TWO free issues added to their subscription!**

Changing columns

Although not immediately obvious by looking at the screen, 'List' mode in EPOC's Data allows you to change column widths quickly with the pen. Imagine the column dividers extending all the way to the top of the screen (i.e. into the headings), then use the pen to drag these imaginary lines to the left or right.

Although more obvious due to their screen layouts, you can of course change column widths in the same way in both Sheet and Email.

Frank Cooper. Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

OPL on the Revo

If you've switched to a Revo and are missing the OPL program editor that features on other EPOC palmtops, there is a way to reinstate this 'lost' application, albeit with a little spade work on your desktop PC.

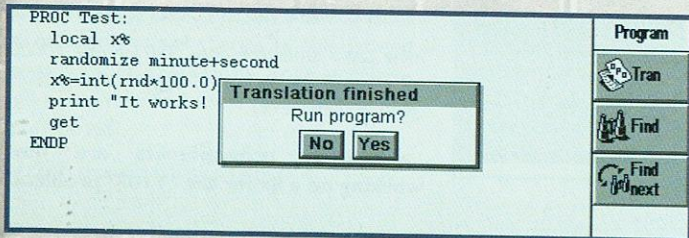
1. Order by post, or download and install, the C++ SDK from EPOC World (www.epocworld.com).
2. Using Windows Explorer, find the folder \EPOC32\Release\MARM\Rel.

3. Make a new folder on your Revo, called \System\Apps\TextEd. Copy TextEd.app, TextEd.rsc and TextEd.abw into this new folder.
4. Rename TextEd.abw to TextEd.aif.
5. Copy a suitable MBM (Multi-BitMap) file from an application you've previously worked on into the TextEd folder. (I used the MBM file of icons from one of my own programs).
5. Rename this file to TextEd.mbm.

You now have the OPL editor installed on your Revo. The reason you need to copy a graphics file from a different application is because the MBM file in the \EPOC32\Release\MARM\Rel\ directory is a ROM MBM file and it won't work from the Revo's RAM.

If, by the way, when you run 'Program' from the Extras bar, the application says there is something wrong with TextEd.mbm, delete it and try a graphics file from another application.

If you now copy across an OPL document, the Revo will recognise the file. Or, of course, you can create a new file in the normal way. The OPL editor will run normally on the Revo,



**The proof of
the
pudding—OPL
up and running
on the Revo**

except that the toolbar is 70 pixels wide, instead of the Revo's standard 52 pixels.

If you have problems obtaining the C++ SDK or can't get the files to work, please contact slitchfield@ukonline.co.uk.

Adam Sissman, Leeds

Erasing the past

You can reset the 'Recent files' list on the 5mx (and compatibles) by deleting the file \System\data\Mru.dat on the internal disk. You may find that you need to enable viewing of the System folder in 'Preferences' first.

Norman Long, Stanmore, Middlesex

TV scheduling on the cheap

Rather than use a third party TV scheduling application to plan your week's viewing, it's possible to use the built-in Agenda instead.

I use a separate Agenda document (set up on Macro5 to load with a shortcut) that has a standard time slot length of 30 minutes, only has time slots for 17:30 to 00:00, and has an alarm as standard on all entries, sounding five minutes before each programme starts.

Ian Rawlings, Reading, Berkshire

Outline conversion

Series 5 documents, converted to the 5mx/Revo, require a slight modification to get the outlining to work.

1. Open a document.
2. Choose 'Paragraph | Style gallery...'
3. Select a style of 'Heading 1', 'Heading 2' or 'Heading 3'.
4. Tap on 'Modify...'
5. Enter an 'Outline level' number to correspond with the style used.
6. Tap on 'OK'.
7. Repeat steps 3 to 6 as necessary, for all the heading styles used.
8. Tap on 'Close'.

Blake Nancarrow, via the Internet

Backing up the Revo

When away from my office, it's reassuring to be able to back up important documents, but the lack of a CompactFlash slot on my Revo means I have nowhere else besides the internal disk to store a copy.

A simple solution that works well for me was to open a free email account (e.g. myepocfiles@somewhere.com) and to email the files to it as attachments. If required, I'd just need to open up the mailbox and retrieve the messages.

Marianne Dawson, Perth, AUSTRALIA

Day view slot definitions

Left page: From	08:30 pm
To	08:30 pm
Slot duration	00:30
Show	Slot time and slot line
Right page: From	08:30 pm
To	11:59 pm
Slot duration	00:30
Show	Slot time and slot line

Cancel OK

Setting up your time slots for TV program scheduling

Q&A

Get your Psion-related questions answered by our editorial panel...

Default font in Sheet?

Q Is it possible to set a default font for Sheet, as I prefer to use Courier wherever I can?

Dave Harding, Urbana, Illinois, USA

A No. However, it's simple to achieve a similar result. Tap on the shaded box near the top left of your screen, at the intersection of the row and column grid labels. This will select and highlight the entire sheet, whereupon you can use 'Format | Font...' (or any other formatting command that takes your fancy).

Auto date insertions

Q Is it possible to insert today's date into a document on my Series 5mx (e.g. Word, Sheet, etc.)?

Tony Owen, Acton, London

A Not using the built-in software, but this (and many other similar tasks) are easy to accomplish with a single keystroke in Macro5, a freeware third party utility for EPOC that you can install from our CD or from the Internet. This superb piece of software was covered in detail in a feature entitled 'Getting along with Macro5' in issue 25 of *Palmtop*.

Repeating on the 31st...

Q In Agenda, is it possible to repeat an entry on the last day of the month, taking into account that the months contain different numbers of days?

Ian Thompson, Bournemouth

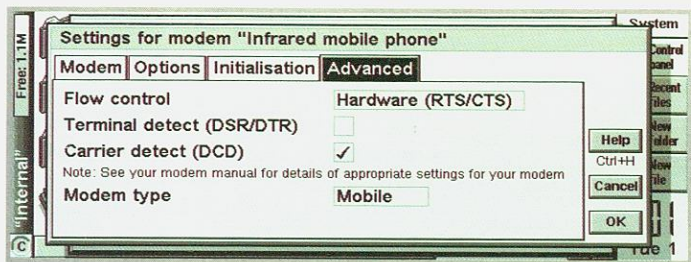
A Yes, just set the entry to repeat monthly on the 31st. It will then automatically show up on the last day of each month, regardless of whether that month actually contains 31 days. Note that there's no way to have an entry appear, say, on the third Friday of each month. Such entries would have to be made manually.

Internet connection trouble

Q I'm having severe problems getting online with my Series 5mx, PC Card Adaptor, card modem and mobile phone. After a few seconds connected, the call is dropped and I'm not sure what to try next.

Vic Fotheringham, Manchester

A Assuming that you've checked the obvious things already: that your mobile phone service provider has enabled 'data' transmission on your number and that the batteries in your card adaptor are good, the best place to start is in 'Control panel / Modems'.



If you're having trouble with Internet connections, try a few alternative settings...

Edit your modem settings and check the 'Initialisation' strings and 'Advanced' settings against the recommendations from your modem card manufacturer. In particular, try different combinations of 'Flow control', 'Terminal detect' and 'Carrier detect'. You might also try slowing the modem 'Speed' down a few notches.

Assuming that you have an alternative way onto the Internet, it's often worth asking on the Psion newsgroups (*comp.sys.psim.misc*) as there's almost certainly been someone else with the same or similar equipment who's already hit the problem and solved it.

Deleting those question marks

Having started to browse around the folders on my Ericsson MC218, I keep seeing files with a large 'question mark' icon. Is it safe to delete these to save memory and disk space?

Jan Mikkelsen, Treknergade, DENMARK

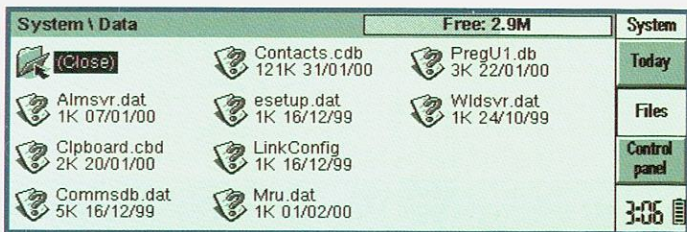
A Almost certainly not! The question mark icon simply means that the file is not a 'standard' EPOC document type that you're expected to open by tapping on it. There are a great many binary files, especially in the \System folder, which are used directly by both built-in and third party applications, and most of these display the same '?' icon.

If you absolutely feel the need to experiment with deleting *any* unknown files, make sure you backup to your desktop first or at least move the files to a temporary folder somewhere else on your palmtop. If everything still works a day or so after moving such files, it may be safe to delete them from the temporary folder, but always exercise caution!

CompactFlash detritus?

If I have programs and files on a CompactFlash card and delete some of them, do I completely free up the

Beware the question mark icons—delete at your own peril!



space or do I have to reclaim it with some special tool?

Mike Barnett, Bristol

A Yes, CF disks appear to the EPOC operating system just as any other normal disk. We're guessing that you're asking this question after adding up the space taken by all your programs and files, to find there's a discrepancy in the amount of disk space that should be left on the disk. This difference is due to the 'cluster size' being used on the card (see the article 'Inside CompactFlash' in issue 24 for a full discussion) and is quite normal.

When adding, using and deleting a lot of files on any disk, there's usually a degree of fragmentation, with files stored in lots of little chunks all over the disk's 'surface'. On rotating, magnetic disks, this is a major problem and 'defragmentation' utilities can speed up access to these files tremendously. On the solid state CF disk, however, there's no speed penalty in gathering a file's fragments from different disk locations. Although the commercial Essential Disk Utilities includes a defragmenter in its toolkit and happily shuffles all the file fragments together neatly, we've yet to be convinced this has any beneficial effect on performance.

Single-ring alarms

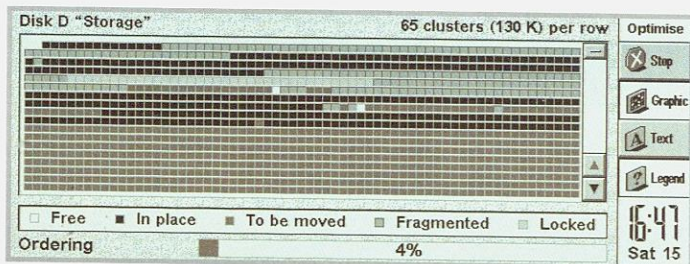
Q I desperately want to be able to set up the Series 5mx alarm so that it rings once at a defined date and time and then stops ringing without having to open the palmtop and press a key to cancel it. Is this possible, perhaps with a short OPL program?

Jean-Philippe Facques, Paris, FRANCE

A There's unfortunately no way to set up the built-in software to behave in this way, although it would be a fairly easy for a third party program to play a sound file at times and dates you specify. We haven't heard of any utility that does this yet, but perhaps this mention will inspire an OPL programmer?

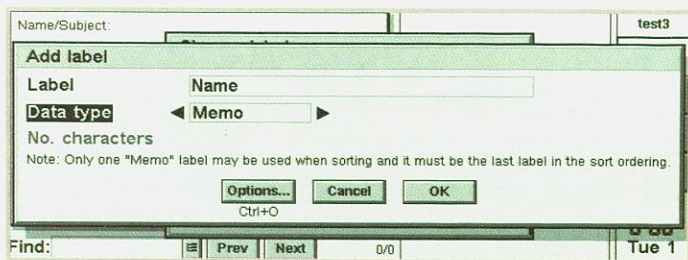
Series 3-5 Data conversion

Q After buying a new 5mx, I converted all the files from my old 3a to the new machine, including my Data files. I had originally designed them so that some of the fields could have more text added to them on an ongoing basis. However, I now find these fields have been designated as 'Text' fields of a limited length in the conversion process, thus preventing me from adding any serious amount of further information. Short of inserting an entirely new field and then



Defragmenting a CF disk with Atelier's Essential Disk Utilities—but will it make any difference?

Using Memo fields to allow for long Data entries



cutting and pasting all the entries, how can I get around this problem?

Jonathan Thomas, Sutton, Surrey

A Don't worry, there is a solution that doesn't involve wearing out your fingers! Just make a new Data file with labels of exactly the same names as the original, but with the troublesome labels set as type 'Memo'. Once you're happy all the label names match up, use 'File | More | Merge in...' to merge in the contents of the original.

Do check that all the data came across correctly, as it's easy to mis-type a label name and find that a slice of your original file didn't get merged in after all.

Reading attachments on a PC

Q Having upgraded from a Series 3 to a Series 5, I've started to use the free Message Suite to send and receive emails via my mobile phone. I use the 'attachment' facility when sending and receiving mails—something much in use in the business world. However, unless the recipient has PsiWin on their desktop PC they are unable to read any of my attachments. In the same way, I cannot read any of their Word or Excel attachments on my Series 5.

Since the majority of my customers and colleagues do not own a Psion or have access

to PsiWin—what use is the attachment facility in Message Suite? Am I missing a trick?

Chris Moore, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire

A Yes, but just the one—most of the magic box is well and truly absent. The later versions of Message Suite could read Word for Windows document attachments and you'll find that by upgrading your copy the missing viewer should appear. There's no equivalent encoder for outgoing EPOC Word documents though, so this is strictly a one-way process. If absolutely desperate, you could send documents as plain text, but all formatting other than basic paragraph breaks is lost.

We agree that the lack of built-in file converters in EPOC is a major omission and can only hope that Psion and Symbian are listening, and can provide an upgrade in the near future.

Don't forget that you can submit your tips or questions by normal mail to the address given on page 1, or alternatively by email, to editor@palmtop.co.uk. Please be sure to put "Tips" or "Q&A" in the 'subject' line of your email.

Musings...

Pete Sipple reflects on what we've left behind, and what may be around the next corner...

Evolution is part of the human condition. We've moved from cave to hut to thatched cottage to centrally-heated house as our knowledge and ingenuity has expanded. With the dawn of a new millennium, it's clear that times are, as they say, a-changing. In the Dark Ages, before dishwashers, talking cars, speed cameras and Furbies, *we* led technology, using new inventions to make life less mundane. Now, in this digital age, new developments lead *us*, forcing us to upgrade, replace and embrace.

These days, kids' Christmas presents are considered second-rate if they don't take AA batteries, and you're considered a dinosaur if you don't have an email address, radio-controlled clock or more than thirty channels of TV repeats. Technology is no longer labour-saving, it's a must-have, and it shows no sign of slowing yet.

Mobile Madness

An obvious example of this revolution is the ubiquitous mobile phone. When they first appeared, the sight of a businessperson lugging an electronic house brick with an aerial made many of us smile. In due course they achieved yuppie status with city whiz-kids engendering sarcasm and ridicule from onlookers. Inevitably, phones shrunk, networks expanded and (always the clincher) prices fell. Mobile phones

became more commonplace, and no self-respecting businessperson is complete without one. Nowadays, it's hard to find someone who *doesn't* own one—even my technophobic mum has succumbed, and the daily commute just isn't complete without several overlapping "I'm on a train, put the dinner on" conversations. Technology now enables us to use a mobile phone without even speaking, and the sight of youngsters beaming text messages back and forth is as common as hearing today's chart hit beeping from a colleague's jacket pocket.

Prolific palmtops

The very fact that you're reading this magazine means that your pocket diary and paper address book went out of the window some time ago. It's also likely that your EPOC machine isn't the first electronic organiser you've owned. I've still got my first organisers, tucked away in the back of a drawer somewhere. My first machine was the old grey Psion Organiser II, with its slide-down keyboard cover and 16K Datapacks. The other was a credit card-sized organiser that held an impressive 50 telephone numbers and precious little else. Today, electronic organisers are less commonplace than mobile phones, but that's all set to change.

Where do we go from here?

We are witnessing the dawn of a new age. New hardware, new standards and new technologies are appearing faster than our credit cards can keep up. When the digital watch first appeared, they just told the time. Before they eventually became passé, they evolved into direction-finders, thermometers, data-banks and remote controls. Finding a watch that *just* told the time in a single time-zone became a challenge.

The same is set to happen to the mobile phone. Smartphones, e-commerce, WAP and Bluetooth are the way of the future and being online on the move is going to get easier. In the next few years, mobile phones and electronic organisers will become one and the same. An early sign of this is the new range of EPOC machines with 'Email' and 'Web' icons replacing 'Word' and 'Sheet' on the toolbar, showing that manufacturers are taking the 'online experience' seriously.

Evolution dictates that the future will be in *personalised* data delivery. The more time you spend online, the more the 'net will get to 'know' what you like. News, information and even your bank balance can be pushed into your pocket without you even having to ask. It's good news for entrepreneurial advertisers too, as electronic junk mail actually starts to become useful by offering you something you really want at a price you want to pay, instead of just offering a faster way to fill up your computer's Recycle Bin.

When will it all stop?

The answer is that it probably won't. Rather than finding a product that does what we want for the price we want, we'll be resigned to buying the latest, fastest, smallest, cheapest, flashiest piece of kit just to keep up. You can, of course, argue that it's all one big

conspiracy. Hardware and software manufacturers no longer need to advertise to convince us that our lives are incomplete without the latest upgrade or add-on—we're convincing *ourselves*. Invention has been changed by the ability to port a 'feature' from one product to another. TVs with email, scanners that print, computers that show movies and phones that display maps are all examples of this phenomenon. Will this pace continue, as products become obsolete before we've even unpacked them?

Personally, I'm a sucker for all of this technology. The fact that I've dictated the majority of this article into my PC while wearing a 'Captain Scarlet' microphone and headset probably proves it. I'm sure that one day I'll hit my own level of technological overload and be content. I'll *surely* be happy as soon as my sub-palmtop machine with voice-recognition, MP3 and built-in route planner hits the High Street. When I can watch one of the 7600 channels of satellite TV on its full colour display, switch my Ultrawave oven into defrost mode and let the cat in from the comfort of my own sofa. Then I'll be happy—won't I?

The Psion Reference

UseNet Groups

comp.sys.psion.announce
comp.sys.psion.misc
comp.sys.psion.comm

comp.sys.psion.apps
comp.sys.psion.programmer

comp.sys.psion.marketplace
comp.sys.psion.reviews

These newsgroups are the unmoderated discussion groups on the Internet. It's easiest to access them via a desktop machine using Microsoft or Netscape web browsers (choose 'Read newsgroups' or similar on their menu), but there's now also a dedicated EPOC newsreader, RMRNews, which you can download from www.rmrsoft.com.

There are also digests, with daily messages sent by email. Subscribe to the Series 5 version at www.pinkworks.com/pda/s5list.html.

Proprietary discussion forums

AOL - Psion Noticeboard

Psion/General noticeboard - Keyword: Psion

CiX Psion conference

join psion
join cixed

Psion-related software

3-Lib shareware library

3lib.ukonline.co.uk

CiX

'join psion', then look in '/files' and '/s5_files' file lists

CompuServe

GO PSION

EPOC Software

www.epocsoftware.com

Palmtop Software Directory

www.palmtop.co.uk/softsubp.htm

Plus, of course, the Palmtop CD

See page 115.

Psion FAQ

The Series 3 and Series 5 Frequently Asked Questions documents contain useful information, facts, names, addresses and numbers:

www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/8130/faq.htm

World Wide Web sites

Information

3-Lib	3lib.ukonline.co.uk
Armlink	www.armlink.ndirect.co.uk
Palmtop magazine	www.palmtop.co.uk
PocketInfo	www.pocketinfo.org
Psion	www.psion.com
Symbian	www.symbian.com

News

PDA News	news.tucows.com/pdanews
EPOC News	www.epocnews.com
EPOC Zone	www.epoczone.com

Software houses

Atelier	www.atelier.tm
Beelogic	www.beelogic.com
FreEPOC	www.freepoc.de
Neuon	www.neuon.com
Palmscape	www.palmscape.com
Palmtime	www.shoresystems.net/palmtime
Palmtop Software (formerly BV)	www.palmtopsoftware.com
Purple Software	www.purplesoft.com
RMR Software	www.rmrsoft.com

Miscellaneous

Directory of software authors	3lib.ukonline.co.uk/authors.htm
Epopalypse	www.washuu.net
FoxPop	www.foxpop.ndirect.co.uk
Online with your Psion	ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Jochen_Siegenthaler (currently offline)
Psion medical	dnausers.d-n-a.net/dnethWMo/psionmed.htm
The Flip Side	3lib.ukonline.co.uk/flipside/flipside.htm

Search engines

Googol	www.googol.net
Psion Websearches	psion.websearches.net

Problems with your Psion?

Here are some useful guidelines if you think you may have a hardware problem with your Psion palmtop:

Things to check

Before even thinking of picking up the phone, make sure you've checked the following, if only to save your own embarrassment if it turns out to be something easy to solve:

- Are the main batteries OK? The Psion's own battery information option (from the System screen menu) will give you an indication of their health, otherwise you might want to invest in a cheap battery tester. If in doubt, replace them with brand new 'alkaline' batteries. Note that rechargeable batteries have a much shorter life and do not always give accurate readings with the Psion's own battery checker.
- If the screen appears to be faulty, it could be that the contrast just needs adjusting. If set to minimum you will have a blank screen, whereas maximum will give you an all-black screen. To adjust the contrast on a Series 3, hold down [Psion]+[.], on the Series 5, it's [Fn]+[.]
- Is the screen calibration OK? (Series 5 only). Go into 'Control panel | Screen' and recalibrate it.
- Have you tried resetting the Psion? If it's still possible to backup the unit, do so again unless you know you have a very recent backup. Then try a 'soft' reset. If that doesn't sort things out, try a 'hard' reset (see the manual for details on how to do this). If neither work, it's always

worth unhooking all cables, removing all the batteries (AAs and backup cell) and any CompactFlash card in the CF bay, leaving for 30 minutes. Put the batteries back in and try again, restoring your data if the Psion comes back to life.

Checks complete, but the fault is still there?

If all the above advice fails to help, it's best to contact the experts. If outside the UK, you'll have to contact your local distributors for support options. You can find a list of worldwide service agents at www.pSION.com/international. If within the UK, read on...

Machine repairs

If your machine has developed a hardware fault, you may find that your supplier (particularly if a High Street store) may have an arrangement for replacing your faulty machine. However, most people get their units repaired either by Psion themselves or by POS Ltd. If your Psion is still covered by the 12 month warranty, you should definitely contact Psion. If it is older than a year then you have a choice, although prices are generally similar between the two.

Repairs by Psion

The Psion repair centre can be contacted by telephone on 0181 575 9919, or by email at

uk-repair@psion.com

If in the UK send the broken palmtop by Registered post or by courier, to:

Psion UK Repair Centre
Unit 6 Derby Road
Metropolitan Centre
Greenford
Middlesex
UB6 8UJ

Psion do not guarantee to save data that may be on your machine, so it is important to backup your data first if at all possible. You should remove the batteries (if your data is safe), stylus and SSDs/CFs. Package the machine securely, and enclose a covering letter describing the fault and supplying a daytime phone number and delivery address.

Remember to keep a note of your machine's serial number, as you may need to quote this if contacting Psion.

- ▶ On a Series 3 Classic, this is on the bottom of the machine on a sticker surrounding the speaker, beginning with the letters 'EBA'.
- ▶ On a Series 3a the number is on a transparent label inside the 'A' drive compartment, beginning 'FBA', 'FBB', etc.
- ▶ On a 3c it is in the same place as the 3a, but on a silver sticker with a barcode on it: beginning with 'JBB', 'JBC', etc.
- ▶ On a 3mx it is in the same place as the 3a, but on a silver sticker with a barcode on it: beginning with 'LB', etc.

- ▶ A Siena has its serial number underneath the front AAA battery, beginning 'HBB' or 'HBC'.
- ▶ The Series 5 has its serial number on a sticker with a barcode either inside the compartment with the backup battery or in the 'D' drive compartment, beginning with 'KA00', 'KB00', etc.

Attach some proof of purchase if the repair is a warranty job. Psion will acknowledge receipt of the palmtop into their system, billing you if the repair is chargeable, and will usually return the fixed unit within about a week, by courier.

Technical support

If you have a software or operational problem, you may wish to contact Psion's Technical Support department—see our news item on page 4 for current rates. If you have access to the Internet, then you will find the answer to many common questions and problems at www.psim.com/support.

Repairs by POS Ltd

POS Ltd. offer a similar postal service (contact them for details), plus 'while you wait' repairs at their high street shop at 143 Streatham High Road, London SW16 6EG. Providing you've booked an appointment, repairs can generally be done on the spot in 1-2 hours.

Telephone POS Ltd. on 0181 677 9246

Using the Palmtop CD-ROM

- **Windows** users who receive the CD should double-click on the file 'Start.htm'. On most PCs the web browser will leap into life and display the CD interface. If nothing happens, or if Windows asks how the file should be displayed, cancel the operation and install a 'web browser' application such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape (these can be found on almost all PC magazine cover CDs). After installation, try double-clicking on 'Start.htm' again.

Please note that your operating system may set all files retrieved from the CD to 'Read-only'. This shouldn't cause a problem for 99% of applications, but you may have to manually change file properties (e.g. use [Control]+[P] on the Series 5 itself) if you have problems with running or removing software.

Those who install a new web browser should note that it often comes with its default start page set to the maker's web site, meaning that it tries to go online. Just go into its 'View|Options' dialog (or similar) and set the start page to a file local to your computer (e.g. the *Palmtop* CD Start.htm file).

- **Macintosh** users should simply drag the 'start.htm' file onto their web browser, where it will load the interface just as on a PC. Please note that the Psion screen saver, demos and Emulators are all designed to run on PCs, so they will not work directly on your Mac. The latest CDs also come with a Mac-specific start page.

- **DOS** and **Amiga** owners may be restricted in what they can view on the CD, but will still be able to browse the 3-Lib library section and copy off the software as needed.

- Users of **RISC OS** machines have had a few problems with the 'Joliet' format used on the Palmtop CD-ROM. Fortunately that has now been resolved, and users of those machines can now access all of the web sites on the CD without getting error messages (although they obviously won't be able to run any of the applications). All that's needed is a copy of Warm Silence Software's CDROMFS. For more details, contact Warm Silence Software Ltd, PO Box 28, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1XX. Tel: 0585 487642, Tel/Fax: 01608 737172 or see their web site at www.wss.co.uk.

RISC OS users will also find that the copy of the ArmLink web site on the CD contains PsiFS, a free application they can use to transfer files between their palmtop and desktop machines.



Palmtop

CD Plus

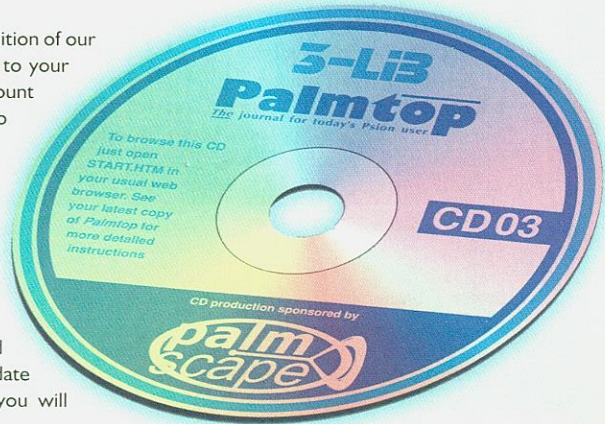
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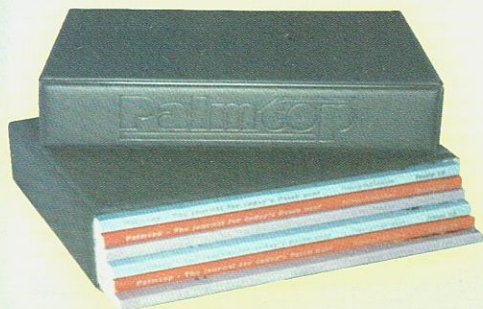
- The CD is re-pressed and updated APPROXIMATELY every two months, but this will vary. We have a standard number of CDs pressed every time, and update it every time we run out. In any case you will receive SIX CDs for your money.

- Note that the majority of the content does not change from disk to disk. As an example, CD06 had about 100 new and updated programs that were not on CD05, from a total of over 2000.

Alternatively, you can always buy single copies of the latest Palmtop CD for £10 each (including worldwide postage). See our contact details on page 1, or order direct from our web site, on www.palmtop.co.uk



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This service is not available to non-subscribers, nor to Psion dealers. We bear no liability for items bought or sold from this page.

Series 5 (8MB English) with original PsiWin CD, PC connector, mains adaptor, printer connector, leather case, registered Purple software Allegro and Chess, and Psion Monopoly. Lots of other shareware already loaded - £400.

Contact Nancy at nancy.boehm@db.com

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Contact Arthur Jones on 0468 165047 (mob.)
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Series 5 (8MB) - £180, 512K Flash SSDs - £10 each, Widget Series 3 Tools - £15. Purple Software Dataview - £15.

Contact Roger Waters on 0181 8669392
Email: roger.waters@bmw.co.uk

Series 3c (2MB, backlit) - £120, Cyclone disk drive - £80, Personal Accounts & Expenses-£10, En Route - £10, Psifax - £10, Psimail Internet - £20, A5 folder-style Vega case for psion and phone/modem - £20, Vega belt holster - £15.00. £250 ono for everything.

Contact Glen Murray on 0385 744385 (mob.)

Email: glen.murray@mydomain.freemove.co.uk

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Contact Andy Edwards on 01603 435049
email edwards.thunder@ukgateway.net

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Series 3c	1MB	£45	£110
	backlit/2MB	£50	£125
	3mx	£65	£140
Series 5	8MB	£110	£220
	5mx	£220	£340

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	mx/5 (v2.2)	£10	£35
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3Fax	3a	£20	£50
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PsiFax s/w	S3 disk	£5	£25
PsiMail Internet	S3 disk	£10	£35
PC card modem ad.	3a	£30	£70

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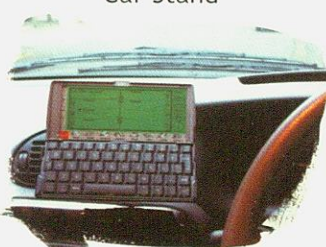
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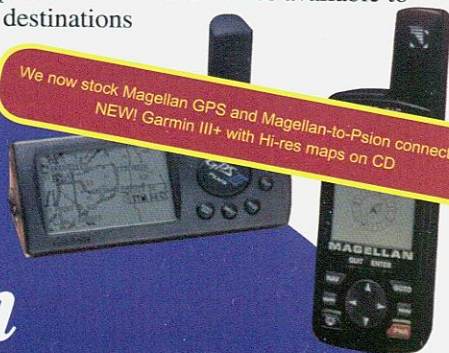
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freespace.virgin.net/richard.balch

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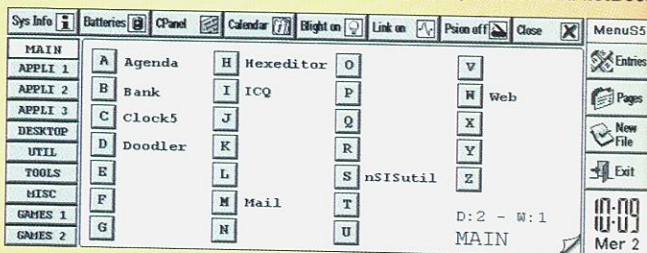
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F olders

Launcher

henri spagnolo
hspagnol@worldcom.ch
home.worldcom.ch/~hspagnol/

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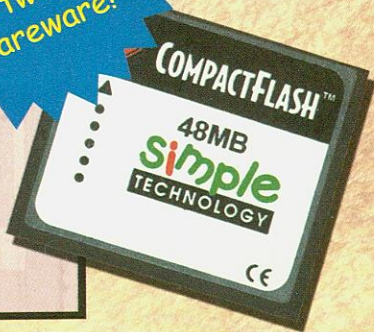


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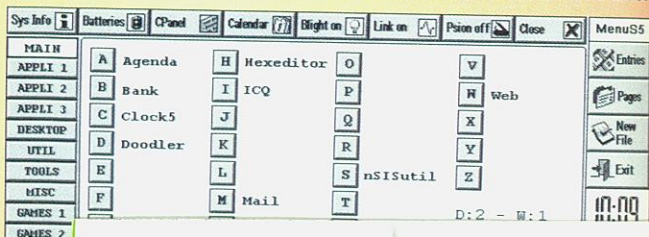
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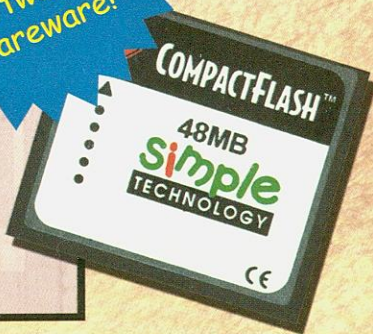


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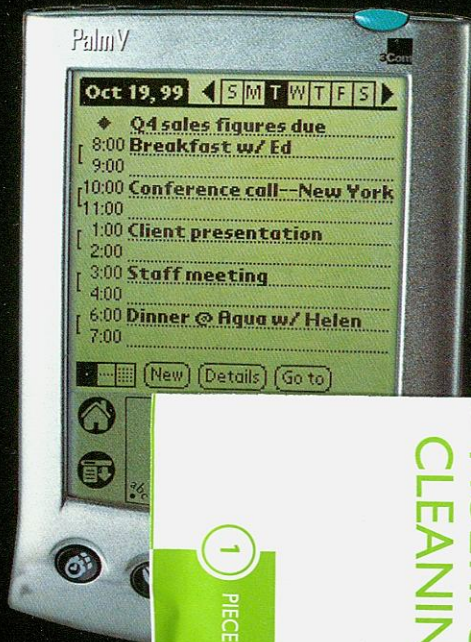
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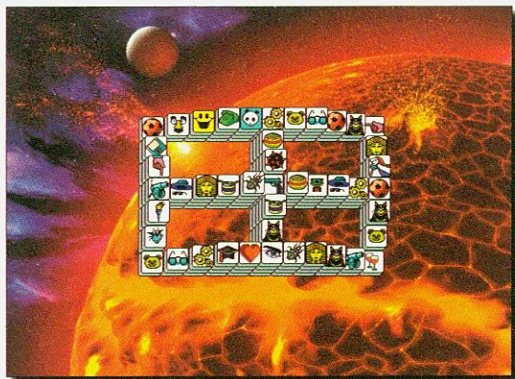
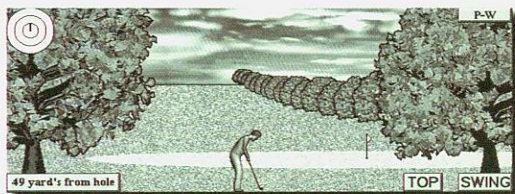
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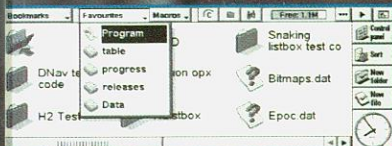
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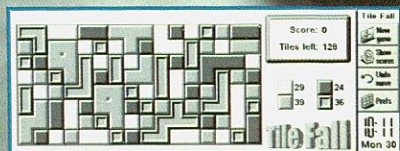


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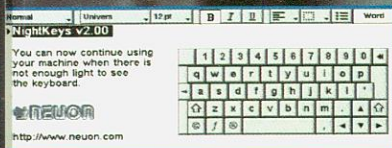
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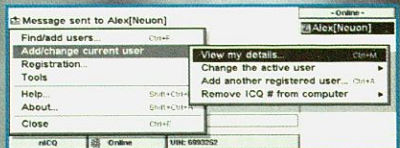
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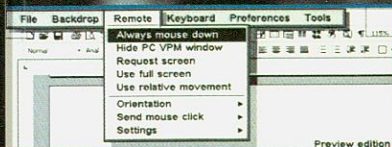
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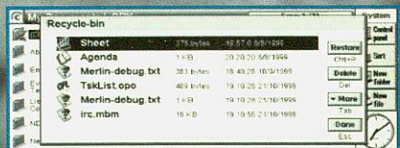
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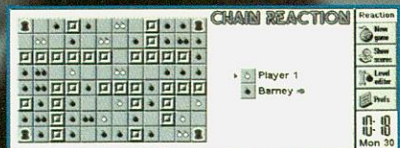
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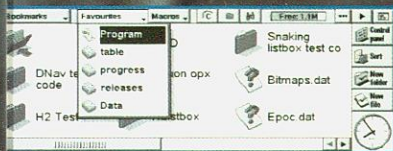
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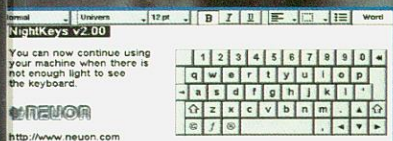
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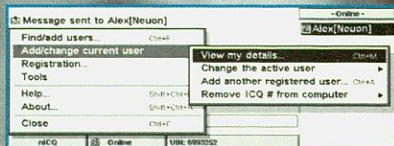


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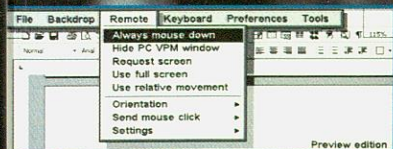
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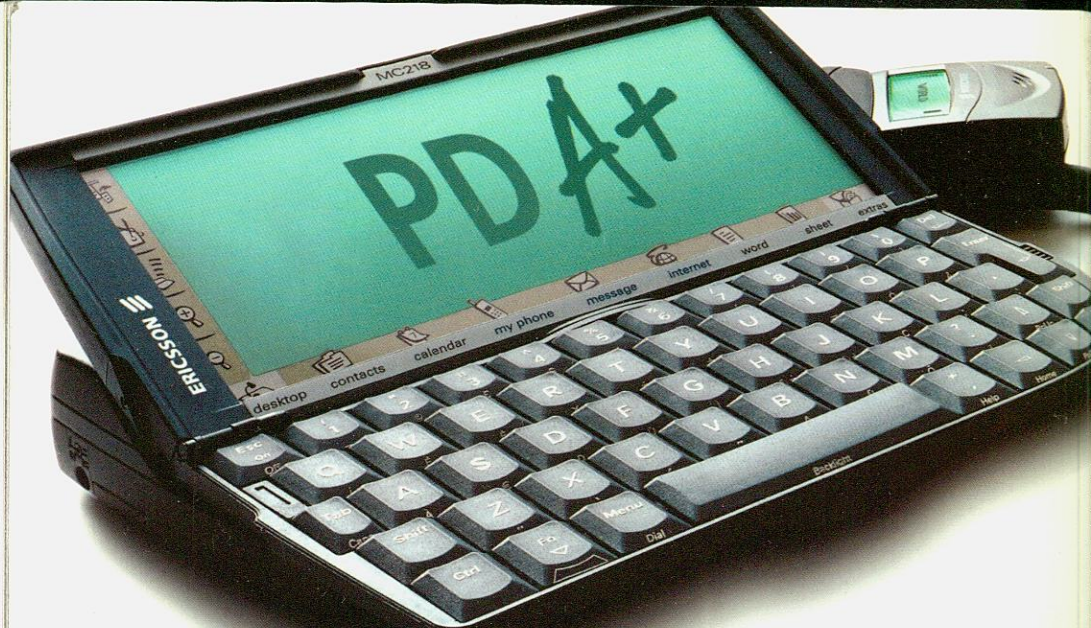
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